



 House Williams

Setting up a Business in Hong Kong

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Howse Williams is an independent Hong Kong law firm which combines the in-depth experience of its lawyers with a creative, forward-thinking approach.

About Us

Our key practice areas are corporate/commercial and corporate finance; commercial and maritime dispute resolution; clinical negligence and healthcare; insurance, personal injury and professional indemnity insurance; employment; family and matrimonial; property and building management; banking; fraud; financial services/corporate regulatory and compliance.

As an independent law firm we are able to minimise legal and commercial conflicts of interest and act for clients in every industry sector. The partners have spent the majority of their careers in Hong Kong and have a detailed understanding of international business and business in Asia.

The HW partners and their teams have an excellent reputation for delivering high quality legal advice with a practical and commercial approach to solving legal issues in line with clients' commercial objectives.

Setting up a Business in Hong Kong



Overview

The most common types of business vehicle in Hong Kong are as follows:

- A company incorporated in Hong Kong
- A branch office of a parent company
- A representative office

Business Registration

The Business Registration Ordinance requires that every business in Hong Kong register with the Business Registration Office of the Inland Revenue Department in respect of each location from which the business is conducted within one month of starting business. The registration certificate must be displayed at the place of business and is usually valid for one year. Particulars registered with the Business Registration office are available to the public and any change in particulars must be notified to the Business Registration Office within one month. Business registration serves to notify the Inland Revenue Department that a business has been established that may be subject to payment of profits tax.

Licenses and Consents

Certain businesses require specific licenses or consents from regulatory authorities, including but not limited to businesses involved in telecommunications, insurance, banking and other financial services.

Companies Incorporated in Hong Kong

Companies incorporated in Hong Kong can be public or private and can be limited by shares or by guarantee. Usually companies limited by guarantee are set up by non-profit organisations. Most public companies are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and are subject to additional regulations such as the Listing Rules and the Hong Kong Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

Private Limited Companies

A private limited company is a company which restricts the right to transfer its shares; limits the number of shareholders to 50 (excluding employees and former employees) and prohibits any invitation to the public to subscribe for any shares or debentures in the company. The liability of each shareholder is limited to the amount (if any) unpaid on the shares held by that shareholder.

Incorporation

A private limited company may be incorporated in Hong Kong by submitting the following to the Hong Kong Companies Registry:

- a certified signed copy of the Articles of Association
- an incorporation form
- the prescribed fee

A company name must not be the same as an existing company. The Registrar of Companies keeps a list which may be viewed online at the Companies Registry's Cyber Search Centre. A company may be incorporated with an English or a Chinese name or a name incorporating both English and Chinese. It is not possible to reserve a name in advance.

The Companies Registry will issue a Certificate of Incorporation certifying the name and date of incorporation of the company.

Shareholders, Directors, Company Secretary and Auditors

A private limited company in Hong Kong must have at least one shareholder, one director who is a natural person and a company secretary. A secretary, director and shareholder of a company can be the same person except that the sole director of a company cannot also be the secretary of the company. There is no prescribed minimum share capital. The company secretary must be either an individual resident in Hong Kong or another Hong Kong limited company. The company's auditors must be a Hong Kong firm of accountants. Shareholders and directors can be of any nationality or residence.

Registered Office

The registered office address of the company to which all formal and legal correspondence will be addressed must be situated in Hong Kong. The registered office address may be a different address to the company's business address.

Post Incorporation Matters

A company must keep annually audited accounts. It is advisable for auditors to be appointed as soon as possible after incorporation. After incorporation a company may open bank accounts in Hong Kong and elsewhere. The company must determine a financial year, file annual returns and hold/maintain a business registration certificate.

A Branch Office of a Parent Company

A foreign company is permitted to establish a branch office in Hong Kong. It must register the branch with the Registrar of Companies within one month of establishing a place of business in Hong Kong. A certificate of registration of a non-Hong Kong

company will be issued by the Companies Registry. In addition, a branch office must apply for a business registration certificate.

Subject to being exempted from an obligation to do so, a foreign company must file an annual return confirming that there is no change to the documents and particulars already filed with the Registrar at the time of registration. The company must also file an annual balance sheet, profit and loss account, group accounts, directors' report and auditors report.

Considerations when choosing a branch vs. a subsidiary include the following:

- A subsidiary is an entity which is completely separate from its parent. The parent is not, therefore, responsible for the debts of its subsidiary.
- Profits tax is the same for local and foreign companies.
- Establishment of a subsidiary is quicker than setting up a branch.
- A Hong Kong subsidiary is not required to file its accounts on public record. A branch will need to do so unless it is exempted.
- Establishment of a branch may lead to tax advantages in the home jurisdiction such as the treatment of any losses by the Hong Kong branch.
- No capital duty is payable for setting up a branch.
- A separate audit of a branch is not required.
- Termination of a branch may be affected by notification to the Companies Registry. A subsidiary may only be terminated by way of liquidation or deregistration.

Representative Offices

A foreign company is permitted to establish a local representative office which is not required to register with the Registrar of Companies but must obtain a business registration certificate. Subject to certain exceptions, a representative office must not undergo business in Hong Kong that creates any legal obligations. A representative office is usually a liaison office.

Sole Proprietorships, General Partnerships and Limited Partnerships

A Sole Proprietorship must obtain a Business Registration Certificate. It is not a separate legal entity, therefore all debts and liabilities are the personal responsibility of the sole proprietor.

A general partnership is usually governed by a partnership agreement. A partnership is not a separate legal entity. The partners are personally liable for all debts and liabilities. A general partnership must obtain a Business Registration Certificate.

A limited partnership must be registered with the Registrar of Companies and obtain a Business Registration Certificate. A limited partnership must consist of at least one or more general partners who are responsible for the management of, and are liable for, all the debts and obligations of the partnership and one or more limited partners who are liable for the debts or obligations of the partnership only up to the amount that they contribute to the capital of the partnership. A limited partner must not take part in the management or control of the business of the limited partnership and must have no power to bind the limited partnership as its agent.

Acquiring a Business

There are two ways to purchase a business in Hong Kong. The first is to buy the shares of a company. This involves acquiring a company with all of its assets and liabilities which generally involves a due diligence exercise and appropriate warranty and indemnity protection in the sale and purchase documentation.

The second is to buy the assets of a business which may protect the purchaser from certain liabilities of the business but can be a complicated process requiring third party and other consents.

Joint Ventures

Two or more joint venture partners may agree to undertake a business together. The most common legal structure for a joint venture arrangement is to establish a private limited company where the shareholders are the joint venture partners. A shareholders agreement will regulate the business of the joint venture company and the rights and obligations of the joint venture partners.

HW Corporate Services

HW (Corporate Services) Ltd. provides a range of corporate secretarial services to clients in relation to companies incorporated in Hong Kong, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and setting up a WOFE in China.

We are able to provide initial set-up and ongoing secretarial services for Hong Kong and offshore companies and foreign companies registered in Hong Kong. Our services include provision of a company secretary; provision of a registered office; custody of statutory books, records, stamps and chops; preparation of annual returns and other filings to the Companies Registry, Inland Revenue and other regulatory bodies; company and name search services; preparation of minutes, articles of association and execution of documents in relation to annual and extraordinary meetings of shareholders and directors.

HW Legal Services

In addition to company formation, HW provides practical legal advice on the following areas associated with setting up companies in Hong Kong:

- licensing issues
- consents and regulatory requirements
- intellectual property rights
- competition law
- corporate services, from complex multi-jurisdiction cross-border investments to drafting commercial and service agreements
- employment visas and other immigration issues
- employee contracts, employee relocations, employee returns and other statutory and common law employment matters
- office set-up including insurance, commercial and residential leases and other contractual arrangements
- banking and taxation issues.

Our clients include multinationals, small and medium enterprises and innovative start-ups. Details of HW's practice areas are listed below.

HW Practice Areas

Dispute Resolution: HW specialises in dispute resolution both in Hong Kong and internationally. The firm handles complex multi-jurisdictional commercial cases involving sale of goods; trade finance; media law; fraud; shareholder, joint venture, employment, property and franchise disputes; insolvency issues; injunction proceedings; jurisdictional challenges; public inquiries and judicial reviews.

Corporate/Commercial and Corporate Finance: HW's team advises clients on a diverse spectrum of practice areas in all Asian jurisdictions, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, direct investment, capital markets and securities, private equity and venture capital, shareholder/joint venture agreements, corporate restructuring/reorganization, corporate governance and general commercial matters including operational contracts and intellectual property commercialization.

Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance: The firm advises on general insurance, professional indemnity, D&O and specialised insurance lines acting for, amongst others, mutual and fixed premium insurers of ships, a wide range of insurers for freight forwarders, warehouse operators, transport intermediaries, cargo owners and trade insurers. We also represent insurers who provide professional indemnity insurance for various professional bodies in Hong Kong. We provide services to the following professionals: solicitors, accountants, medical and dental practitioners, architects, directors and officers, engineers, estate agencies, financial institutions, fund managers, nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists and health care workers.

Shipping: The firm specialises in maritime dispute resolution and handles a wide range of disputes both in Hong Kong and throughout Asia. The shipping team has considerable experience in all types of dry shipping litigation acting usually on behalf of owners, charterers and their P&I Clubs. They are able to advise on any problems concerning charterparties, bills of lading and contracts of affreightment. They have particular expertise in handling problems arising from the shipment of coal, iron ore, nickel ore and fluorspar.

Clinical Negligence and Healthcare: The medico-legal team advises doctors, dentists and their indemnity providers and other healthcare professionals. The partners also advise private hospitals, medical group practices, corporate healthcare providers and pharmaceutical companies on issues relating to the import and distribution of drugs and pharmaceutical products, drug liability claims and other regulatory matters.

Employment: HW provides contentious and non-contentious employment advice to both employers and employees in Hong Kong. We advise on all aspects of the fast changing contractual, common law and statutory law employment framework. In 2013 HW was awarded International Employment Law Firm of the Year in Hong Kong by Global Law Experts.

Family and Matrimonial: Our cases often involve families with assets in multiple jurisdictions. We handle all manner of children's issues including custody, care and control and other parenting disputes, such as access, child maintenance, paternity and schooling applications both in respect of married and unmarried couples and cohabitants. We have experience in handling private adoptions; cases involving child abduction and family finances including property transfers, prenuptial agreements and separation deeds.

Property and Building Management: The firm advises on a wide range of property and building management matters including land rights disputes, building management and tenancy issues. We work with major corporate landlords, international real estate agencies and property developers in connection with issues such as interpretation of Deeds of Mutual Covenant, easements / right of way, adverse possession, nuisance, illegal structures and common areas.

Banking and Finance: HW's banking team has experience in a broad range of banking and finance matters, including bilateral and syndicated lending, international trade finance, project finance, acquisition finance, ship finance, general cash management and liquidity products, asset and debt recovery, security enforcement actions, banking regulation and compliance, sanctions, AML, KYC and various regulatory project and remediation works. The team also specialises in a diverse range of trade finance matters, including supply chain finance programs, open account finance, letter of credit and bank guarantee disputes, export credit agency backed finance, structured trade finance, warehouse finance, prepayment and deferred payment finance, documentary credits refinance and credit risk portfolio management.

Regulatory: HW's regulatory team advises financial institutions and corporates on a wide variety of contentious and non-contentious regulatory and compliance issues. On the contentious side : we represent clients in regulatory investigations; conduct or advise on internal/disciplinary enquiries; advise or implement remedial action; liaise and negotiate with regulators; handle issues with stakeholders and deal with related issues such as injunctions and other court orders. On the non-contentious side : we advise on regulatory compliance, carry out gap analyses and operational/compliance reviews; work with clients on licensing and other regulatory applications; advise on business structure and business conduct issues; draft compliance manuals/ dawn raid procedures/client and counterparty agreements; advise on rules applicable to listed companies and shareholders and assist with entry into and exit from Hong Kong. We often work with clients in both capacities for our clients, therefore meeting all of their regulatory and compliance needs.

We are involved in key and topical issues affecting financial institutions, corporates and their senior managers/advisors, including : money laundering; insider dealing and other market misconduct; fraud and bribery; listing rules; investor protection; sale of structured products; auditing issues; corporate governance; internal controls and clearing/settlement/payment systems. We also advise clients on privacy and competition issues.

Fraud/International Fraud Group (IFG): HW regularly acts for victims of all types of fraud to recover misappropriated assets.

In 2015 HW was invited to join The International Fraud Group (IFG), an elite group of handpicked lawyers across 17 countries focused on unravelling fraud and tracing and returning assets. Being part of the IFG group enables us to track the electronic movement of money and, with an order, compel the institution that has handled it to tell us where it has gone. If it is still there, we will freeze it. IFG lawyers are experts in the use of cross-border piggyback injunctions. Being part of the IFG global network enables us to pursue fraudsters and recover assets across jurisdictions. HW is the sole Hong Kong representative of the group. **Linda Heathfield** and **Stacey Devoy** were chosen based on their expertise and effectiveness in asset recovery.





Chris Howse

Partner

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Chris specialises in maritime and commercial dispute resolution, handling a wide range of disputes in the Hong Kong courts and international arbitrations throughout Asia. He has considerable experience in all types of dry shipping litigation on behalf of owners, charterers and their P&I Clubs. He also has particular expertise handling problems arising from the shipment of coal, iron ore, nickel ore and fluorspar.

Chris has more than 35 years of legal experience. He built the Hong Kong office of Richards Butler and he was Senior Partner and Managing Partner of that office from 1983 to 2011. He has considerable experience in arbitration and he is qualified as an arbitrator in Hong Kong, China (CIETAC and CMAC), Singapore, Korea, Malaysia and other Southeast Asian jurisdictions. He has represented parties in arbitrations in China (both CIETAC and CMAC), Hong Kong, London, Singapore and Malaysia. Chris is also an accredited mediator.

Chris also provides professional indemnity advice and assistance to wide range of professionals in Hong Kong, including solicitors, accountants, brokers, architects, vets, doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals.

Chris leads the medico-legal team with fellow partner David Kan. They advise doctors, dentists and their indemnity providers – the Medical Protection Society and Dental Protection Ltd – as well as private hospitals and other healthcare professionals. Chris also advises private hospitals, corporate healthcare providers and pharmaceutical companies on issues relating to the import and distribution of drugs and pharmaceutical products, drug liability claims and other regulatory matters.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2011 Reed Smith Richards Butler
2008 Richards Butler in Association with Reed Smith LLP
1983 Richards Butler Hong Kong
1975 Richards Butler London

▼ *Education*

1975 College of Law
1973 University of Bristol, BA (Hons)
1970 University of Geneva

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1978 England and Wales

1981 Hong Kong

1988 Australia

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Arbitration:

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Hong Kong)

Fellow, Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators Ltd

Supporting Member, London Maritime Arbitrators Association

Arbitrator, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

Arbitrator, China Maritime Arbitration Commission

Arbitrator, Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration Group

Arbitrator, Korean Commercial Arbitration Board

Member, Hong Kong Arbitrations Law Review Committee (1996-2000)

Professional Indemnity Insurance:

Chairman, Hong Kong Law Society Professional Indemnity Claims Committee (2004-2007)

Deputy Chairman, Hong Kong Law Society Professional Indemnity Claims Committee (1999-2004)

Member, Hong Kong Law Society Professional Indemnity Insurance Claims Committee (1989-1999)

Member, Hong Kong Law Society Professional Indemnity Advisory Committee (1999-2006)

Member, Hong Kong Law Society Working Party on Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme (1996-2004)

Chairman, Hong Kong Professional Indemnity Review Committee (2002)



Christopher Williams

Partner

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Chris Williams is one of the founding partners of HW. He specialises in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, direct investment and corporate restructurings and reorganisations. He also advises on corporate governance and compliance. Chris qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales in 1986 and practiced with Richards Butler in London, then moved to Richards Butler Hong Kong in early 1991. He was admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 1991. Chris sits as non-executive chairman and non-executive deputy chairman of three entities listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange ("SGX").

His practice encompasses Hong Kong and the Asia Pacific region, particularly Indonesia and Singapore. Chris has been named in the Guide to the World's Leading Mergers and Acquisitions Lawyers as well as the International Who's Who of Merger and Acquisition Lawyers as one of the world's top mergers and acquisitions lawyers.

Chris has represented major clients on many significant matters including:

- Acted on behalf of PT Lippo Karawaci Tbk group of companies in a Rp 2.2 trillion equity deal in which CVC Capital Partners agreed to acquire a 15% stake in PT Siloam International Hospitals Tbk, the largest private national healthcare group in Indonesia and a listed subsidiary of PT Lippo Karawaci Tbk.
- Acted for PT Multipolar Tbk and its wholly owned subsidiary in relation to the issuance to and subscription by Anderson Investment Pte Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited, of a USD300 million equity linked instrument which is exchangeable into a 26.1% stake in PT Matahari Putra Prima Tbk.
- Acted for Lippo China Resources, a Hong Kong listed company, in its disposal of interest in its PRC retail department store business carried out under the name "Robbinz".
- Acted for Hong Kong Chinese (formerly The HKCB Bank Holding Company Limited) in its acquisition of an 85% interest in Finibanco (Macau), S.A.R.L.
- Acted for an Indonesian based group in relation to the reorganisation of its regional telecommunication and technology interests into a single group and the listing of that group on the Growth Enterprise Market of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

- Acted on behalf of PT Matahari Putra Prima Tbk, one of Indonesia's largest retailers, in its divestment of a substantial part of its interest in PT Matahari Department Stores Tbk to a newly established joint venture with funds managed by CVC Asia Pacific Limited, Matahari retaining a 20% interest in the venture.
- Acted for PT First Media Tbk, a company listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange, in its divestment of part of its interest in PT Link Net and PT First Media Television to a private equity group.
- Acted on behalf of a consortium comprising European financial institutions and Asian investment funds regarding the acquisition of a controlling interest in a financial institution from the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency and its subsequent sale to a sovereign wealth fund.
- Acted as international counsel for Overseas Union Enterprise Limited ("OUE"), a company listed on the SGX, and a consortium led by OUE, in its competing general offer for all the shares in Fraser & Neave Limited for an aggregate consideration of approximately S\$13 Billion. The offer subsequently lapsed.
- Acted for Lippo Limited in its proposed arrangements with Caesars Entertainment Corporation in relation to a proposed joint venture to construct an integrated resort, hotel-casino and serviced apartments in South Korea.
- Restructuring of external debt obligations of Guangdong Enterprises, a wholly-owned conglomerate of Guangdong Provincial Government ("GPG"). The total indebtedness involved was approximately US\$5.7 billion owed by some 300 companies to about 170 banks and 4 large groups of holders of debt securities. The restructuring involved complex and protracted negotiations with the steering committees appointed by the bank creditors and the noteholders. GPG's principal contribution to the restructuring was the privatisation of the entity in Guangdong Province which supplies Hong Kong with most of its natural water. Following the formation of a new company, debt in excess of US\$2 billion was issued to amortise the rescheduled debt. The privatised entity was then injected into Guangdong Investment Limited, a company listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and controlled by GPG as part of the overall restructuring.
- Acting for Overseas Union Enterprise Limited, a company listed on the SGX, generally as international counsel in various corporate transactions.
- Acted for an Asian based conglomerate on the reorganisation of its Hong Kong interests which involved several entities listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and including regulated entities.
- Acted on numerous IPO's on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, many of which involved the reorganisation of companies within the group to be listed in anticipation of listing.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2011 Reed Smith Richards Butler
2008 Richards Butler in Association with Reed Smith LLP
1991 Richards Butler Hong Kong
1986 Richards Butler London

▼ *Education*

1985 Law Society Finals, College of Law
1984 CPE, College of Law
1981 BA(Hons) in international Relations and Economics, University of Reading

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1991 Hong Kong
1986 England and Wales

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of England and Wales
Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



David Kan

Partner, Solicitor Advocate

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David is a dual qualified medical doctor/solicitor and is a Founding Member of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians (UK). He "changed horses" to law almost 25 years ago and nowadays he and Chris Howse lead a team of experienced healthcare lawyers which handle all types of clinical negligence claims, including complex high value and fatal accident claims.

As an experienced litigator, David has gained accreditation as a Solicitor Advocate with Higher Rights of Audience in Hong Kong's Court of First Instance, Court of Appeal and Court of Final Appeal. David has substantial advocacy experience representing clients before the Civil Courts, Coroner's Court and Medical and Dental Council.

David also has considerable experience in advising on mental health law, medical criminal proceedings, clinical trials and risk management issues.

David has a Master's Degree in Medical Law and Ethics which placed him on good stead to provide healthcare regulatory advice to healthcare professionals as well as institutional clients including hospitals, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, medical device manufacturers, specialist group practices and corporate healthcare providers. In 2008, David was appointed as an Honorary Associate Professor of the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Medicine. He regularly lectures at HKU as well as to the Specialist Colleges. He also provides clients and others with training in healthcare law. He is an advisor to various entities including the British Medical Association (HK) and the Hong Kong Medical Association.

Outside of private practice, David has served on the governing boards of a government hospital and a major international school for many years. He is also a qualified coach with the Squash Rackets Association (UK) and he trains almost daily.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2011 Reed Smith Richards Butler
2008 Richards Butler in Association with Reed Smith LLP
1999 Richards Butler Hong Kong
1998 Bevan Ashford Solicitors UK
1996 Lees and Partner Solicitors UK

▼ *Education*

- 2007 University of Hong Kong, Postgraduate Diploma in Child and Adolescent Health
- 1996 Keele University, Master Degree in Medical Law
- 1996 Birmingham University, LPC (with commendation)
- 1995 Birmingham University, CPE
- 1991 Nottingham University, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
- 1990 Nottingham University Exhibition Prize for Medicine
- 1989 Nottingham University, Bachelor of Medical Sciences (Hons)

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

- 1999 Hong Kong
- 1986 England and Wales
- MA (Med Law), MBBS, MFFLM, BMed Sci (Hons), PDipCAH

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

- Member, Hospital Governing Committee of the Bradbury Hospice
- Founding Member, Faculty of Legal and Forensic Medicine, Royal College of Physicians UK
- Legal Advisor, Hong Kong Medical Association
- Legal Advisor, British Medical Association of Hong Kong
- Member, Ethics Committee for the Hong Kong College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Panel Member, Guardianship Board of Hong Kong (2005-2008)
- Vice-chairman, New Medico-Legal Society of Hong Kong (2005-2007)
- Member, Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry
- Member, Law Society of England and Wales
- Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Linda Heathfield

Partner

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Born in England and holding both British and Australian nationality, Linda was admitted to practice law in Hong Kong in October 1994 and in England and Wales in June 1995. She was later admitted to practice in Queensland Australia in January 2002.

Linda's cases often involve families with assets in multiple jurisdictions around the world. Her work includes all manner of children's issues, including custody, care and control and other parenting disputes, such as access, child maintenance, paternity and schooling applications both in respect of married and unmarried couples and cohabitants. Linda has processed a number of applications for private adoptions, usually with extended families or step-families and cases involving the abduction or return of children to or from Hague Convention and non-Hague Convention countries. Her work in respect of family finances has covered maintenance claims made for or against her clients, capital claims, including property transfers as well as an increasing number of pre-nuptial agreements and separation deeds.

Linda became an Executive Committee Member of the Hong Kong Family Law Association in 2006 and was its Chairlady in 2010 and 2011. She was elected a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in 2007 and became a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Practitioners in 2009 with the objective of becoming an active collaborative lawyer. She has undertaken the first multi-disciplinary training set up in Hong Kong for collaborative family law. Linda has completed mediation and advanced mediation courses in 1996 and 1997 and whilst never becoming a practicing mediator, actively promotes mediation as a means of resolving her clients' disputes.

Linda has edited educational materials on family law and matrimonial practice for Legal Executives studying in Hong Kong through Hong Kong University in conjunction with the Institute of Legal Executives in the UK.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2008 Ip & Heathfield
1994 Boase, Cohen & Collins

▼ *Education*

University of Hong Kong, 1991-1992
University of Liverpool, 1973-1976

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1994 Hong Kong

1995 England & Wales

2002 Australia (Queensland)

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Fellow, International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2007)

Member, International Academy of Collaborative Practitioners (2009)

Member of Lawasia

Member of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Family Law Association 2006 to 2011 and its Chairlady 2010 and 2011.



David Coogans

Partner

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David is a commercial disputes lawyer specialising in international trade disputes. David has over 25 years of experience in commercial dispute resolution. He advises ship-owners, charterers and various property and liability insurers. David also has extensive experience outside of international trade matters, including dealing with shareholder disputes and the recovery of monies lost due to internet/identity fraud.

Before qualifying as a lawyer, David served as a deck officer in the British Merchant Navy with the Cunard Steamship Company. He has dealt with several high profile casualty matters.

David has handled arbitrations concerning a wide range of disputes with proceedings in Hong Kong, England & Wales, Australia, Singapore and the United States. David is familiar with UNCITRAL rules, LMAA terms, ICDR, ACICA and SIAC Rules. David has also acted as mediator in several high value disputes.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2005 General Counsel P&O Cruises Sydney Australia
1989 Richards Butler, Hong Kong
1976 Cunard Steamship Company

▼ *Education*

1985 College of Law, Chancery Lane, London, Solicitors Final Examinations
1984 Anglia University, England, BA (Hons)
1980 Riversdale College, Liverpool, England, British 2nd Deck Officer's Certificate of Competency

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1987 England and Wales
1989 Hong Kong
1991 Australia (NSW & Victoria and the ACT)

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

LEADR and nationally accredited mediation practitioner
Member, Law Society of Hong Kong
Member of the Hong Kong Maritime Law Association Executive Committee
Board member of the Maritime Services Training Board



Bernard Murphy

Partner

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Both a medical doctor and a solicitor, Bernard specialises in medico-legal issues, acting for a wide range of healthcare professionals including doctors, dentists, nurses and physiotherapists in proceedings before the Medical Council, clinical negligence claims, Coroner's Court, and Department of Health investigations. Bernard also acts for hospitals and other institutional and corporate healthcare providers in a comprehensive array of healthcare legal matters. Bernard's healthcare practice also extends to advising veterinary surgeons on proceedings before the Veterinary Surgeons Board (VSB) and advising veterinary practices in relation to complaints, claims and regulatory/legislative issues. Bernard was admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 2004 and in England and Wales in 2005.. His legal career began with Richards Butler Hong Kong.

Before qualifying as a lawyer, Bernard practised medicine for more than ten years, the majority of that time in Hong Kong and China. During and following his medical training, Bernard worked as a doctor in NHS hospitals in the UK as a house physician and house surgeon. He was commissioned into the British Army in 1989 and worked as an army doctor until 1994. After leaving the army, Bernard worked in the field of emergency medical evacuation in China and Hong Kong between 1995 and 1999. He has also worked in private medical practice in Hong Kong.

An Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Accident and Emergency Medicine, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Bernard lectures on healthcare legal issues for the Chinese University Department of Accident and Emergency Medicine. He has also presented lectures/workshops for doctors' medical practices, public and private hospitals the Chinese University School of Public Health, and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Physiotherapy.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2011 Reed Smith Richards Butler
2008 Richards Butler in Association with Reed Smith LLP
2002 Richards Butler, Hong Kong

▼ *Education*

2002 University of Hong Kong, Postgraduate Certificate in Law
2001 Manchester Metropolitan University, Postgraduate Diploma in Law
1988 University of Aberdeen, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2005 England and Wales

2004 Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Accident and Emergency Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Foundation Member, Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine, Royal College of Physicians

Member, British Medical Association of Hong Kong

Member, Law Society of England and Wales

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



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Brian specialises in corporate finance, initial public offerings, secondary fund raising exercises, mergers and acquisitions, direct investment and corporate restructurings and reorganisations. He also advises on corporate governance and compliance. Brian qualified as a barrister and solicitor in the State of Victoria, Australia in 1997 and admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 2000.

He previously practiced in the corporate and securities department of various leading local and international law firms in Hong Kong and has advised blue chip listed companies, PRC privately owned or state owned enterprises and multi-national corporations in various corporate finance and corporate compliance transactions.

Prior to joining HW, Brian has gained substantial investment banking experience at Standard Chartered Bank in which he has led and participated in the completion of various ECM transactions in the financial, real estate, telecommunication, retail, general industries sectors.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2007 Standard Chartered Bank, Hong Kong
2004 Baker & McKenzie, Hong Kong
2002 Stephenson Harwood, Hong Kong
2000 Woo, Kwan, Lee & Lo, Hong Kong

▼ *Education*

2008 MBA, Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM)
1997 LL.B, Monash University
1995 B.Com in Accounting, Monash University

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2000 Hong Kong
1997 Australia (Victoria)
Certified Practising Accountant of Australia

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong
Member, CPA Australia
Member, Law Society of Hong Kong Sports and Recreation Committee



Oonagh Toner

Partner

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Oonagh specialises in dispute resolution and commercial and professional negligence litigation. She also handles clinical negligence claims advising healthcare professionals on a range of contractual, regulatory and criminal matters. Prior to qualifying as a Solicitor, Oonagh was an industrial designer and worked in design and advertising in London, Dublin and Hong Kong.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2011 Reed Smith Richards Butler
2008 Richards Butler in Association with Reed Smith LLP
2005 Richards Butler, Hong Kong
Previously with Hayes Solicitors, Dublin, Ireland

▼ *Education*

Griffith College Law School, Dublin
Bachelor of Design in Industrial Design, National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland
Master of Design in Design Management, Royal College of Art, London

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2007 England and Wales
2006 Hong Kong
2005 Ireland

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Chia Ching Tan

Partner

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Chia Ching has experience in a wide range of corporate and commercial matters including IPOs, corporate restructurings, acquisition and disposal, general corporate advisory and regulatory compliance.

Based in Hong Kong since 2007, Chia Ching was involved in a number of notable initial public offerings and listings on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange acting for the sponsors as well as the issuers, including the first listing of a mineral company under Chapter 18 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules in 2008, and, most recently, representing a leading media, telecommunications information and communications providers in Hong Kong in relation to the spin-off and separate listing of its telecommunications business in the form of a novel structure involving a listed trust and the offering of share stapled units. The trust was listed on 29 November 2011 and is the first of its kind in Hong Kong. The transaction was awarded the 2012 Equity Market Deal of the Year by Asian Legal Business. She also acted for sponsors in other initial public offerings involving a leading trading company based in Hong Kong, a number of manufacturing companies based in the PRC as well as an investment company (under Chapter 21 of the Hong Kong Listing Rules) with investments in the PRC, Taiwan and South Korea.

On M&A transactions, Chia Ching was involved in a cross-border acquisition by a key State-owned enterprise of a pallet hire group of companies based in Australia and the South East Asia including Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines; acted for the sellers in the disposal of a PRC based manufacturing company; acted for various private equity funds in their investments in PRC based companies involving in media and mining businesses; and acted for the offeree company in the mandatory takeover offer of a manufacturing company listed on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

On secondary fund raising transactions, Chia Ching also acted for the placing agent or the issuer in relation to numerous share placing transactions, including "placing and top-up" transactions, in respect of companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. She also acted for companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in respect of issuance and listing of guaranteed bonds listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

In addition to her specialist transactional skills, Chia Ching also understands the diverse needs and demands of in-house counsels, having previously been seconded to the legal department of a large telecommunications company listed on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange where she was involved in the internal group restructuring exercise.

Prior to her move to Hong Kong, Chia Ching also has well-versed experience while practicing corporate and commercial law in the largest law firm in Malaysia, represented many multinational corporations in various cross-border mergers and acquisitions and foreign direct investment matters. Some of the notable transactions included the acquisition of a downstream oil and gas company which operated numerous petrol stations in Malaysia, the disposal of a direct selling division, acquisition of Indonesian oil palm plantation companies, acquisition of logistic based real estate investment companies and acquisition and disposal of various manufacturing companies. She was also involved in one of the largest corporate mergers and acquisitions to date in Malaysian corporate history involving the privatization of the largest independent power plant in Malaysia (which also has assets in Bermuda, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Algeria), which was previously listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad.

▼ *Experience*

2013 Howse Williams
2007 Reed Smith Richards Butler
2003 Zaid Ibrahim & Co, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2001 Chee Siah Le Kee & Partners, Malacca, Malaysia

▼ *Education*

2007 Overseas Lawyers Qualifying Examination
2000 University of Melbourne, Australia – Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Law (Hons.)

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2008 Hong Kong
2001 Malaysia

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Jill Wong

Partner

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Jill specialises in financial services and corporate regulatory and compliance issues, and is consistently identified as a leading lawyer in legal directories

She is "very client-focused and makes herself available to us where possible"

She has "exceptional understanding of Hong Kong's regulatory environment, and her relationships with many of the regulatory bodies allow her to provide us with excellent guidance"

She was previously Deputy General Counsel at the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and was in-house counsel as Head of the Asia-Pacific Regulatory Advisory Group, Legal and Compliance at Credit Suisse. In addition, Jill has also worked in leading international law firms in Hong Kong. This unique combination allows her to provide in-depth and constructive insights into the issues and challenges facing financial institutions and corporations.

Jill's experience compasses all aspects of banking, securities and insurance laws and rules affecting listed companies. She advises on both on contentious and non-contentious issues, and often in both capacities for the same clients.

She has hands-on practical experience in liaising with regulators, advising on regulatory compliance and implementing changes to internal practices, conducting internal investigations and advising on corporate governance. Jill has represented clients, both institutions and individuals, in numerous regulatory investigations and disciplinary inquiries.

▼ *Contentious Matters*

Jill has advised on numerous contentious regulatory investigations and internal inquiries involving allegations of:

- financial crime : breach of money-laundering, terrorist financing and sanctions laws, bribery/corruption
- market misconduct : provision of false or misleading information, breach of disclosure obligations, insider dealing, manipulation, etc
- breach of directors' duties
- inadequate corporate governance
- weaknesses in internal controls
- inadequate management/supervision
- breaches of regulations, codes and guidelines

- unlicensed activities
- breach of Hong Kong Listing Rules
- deficiencies in fund management and valuation procedures
- non-compliance with accounting or professional standards
- breaches of privacy legislation

Jill has advised on all aspects of investigations and inquiries: conducting internal investigations; preparing management and regulatory reports; liaising with investors, customers and other stakeholders; advising on remedial action and enhancements to internal controls; accompanying clients to regulatory interviews; negotiating settlements; advising on "fit and proper" issues and liabilities of senior management.

▼ *Non-contentious matters*

Jill has advised on non-contentious regulatory matters across a variety of issues:

- Licensing : structuring issues, regulatory applications and ongoing obligations
- Business conduct : compliance with codes (such as the SFC Code of Conduct, professional investor framework, cross-border activities, disclosures of fees, conflicts of interest issues, etc.) and rules (such as financial resources, contract notes, client money, deposit insurance scheme. etc.)
- Internal controls, policies and corporate governance (such as regulatory gap analyses, reviewing board/committee structures, drafting internal policies)
- Hong Kong Listing Rules (such as advice on disclosure of inside information, announcements, interim and annual reports)
- Entry and exit from Hong Kong : establishment of Hong Kong offices (including local representative offices), voluntary relinquishment of licences
- Client documentation : drafting, review and updating
- Retail/electronic payment systems, stored value facilities, credit/charge cards, clearing and settlement
- Data protection and outsourcing
- Competition law

Jill's skill sets go beyond pure legal advice, extending to legal and compliance risk management, such as oversight of cross-border projects, implementation of enhancements to internal controls, liaison with stakeholders (directors and shareholders) and so on.

▼ *Strategic insights*

Jill also advises clients on strategic matters, such as major regulatory changes and assisting them with business models, liaison with government or regulatory authorities.

▼ *Education*

Bachelor of Economics, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
LLB Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1996 Hong Kong

1995 England & Wales

Admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor in Malaysia

▼ *Publications and Industry Involvement*

Jill is active in contributing to books and articles, some typical examples are -

- Commentary on and Annotations of the Securities and Futures Ordinance, published by Thomson Reuters (2nd edition)
- "Financial Services and the Internet" in Internet Law in Hong Kong published by Sweet & Maxwell Asia
- Editorial Board of Hong Kong Practical Guidance published by LexisNexis
- Security Asia, "Privacy Issues In The Public Spotlight" Inaugural issue 2013
- Financier Worldwide, "Update on Market Misconduct; The SFC's "New" Weapon" November 2012
- Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, "True Purpose trumps False Trading" July 2012
- Lexology.com, "More Protection for Personal Data - amendments to Hong Kong's Privacy Law" July 2012
- China Law Insight, "Hong Kong's new competition law; get ready for the antitrust revolution" June 2012
- China GC Agenda, "Financial Dispute Resolution Centre in Hong Kong soon to commence operations" June 2012

Jill is regularly quoted in the media, speaks at major conferences (UK, Singapore, and Hong Kong) and provides comments on regulatory initiatives. She sits on several committees involving the financial services industry, such as the HKICPA Disciplinary Panel and the British Chamber of Commerce Financial Markets Group.

She has been quoted in competition law publications such as Policy and Regulatory Report Competition Law - Global Intelligence and MLEX Market Insight. She commented on Hong Kong's competition law on the Hong Kong radio programme "Money for Nothing". In June 2016, she ran a Risk Management Elective for the Hong Kong Law Society on Hong Kong's New Competition Law for legal practitioners.



Alison Scott

Partner

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Alison previously worked as a partner with HW's senior partner Chris Howse at Richards Butler in Hong Kong. She has extensive experience in dispute resolution and commercial and professional negligence litigation. Alison moved to England in 1998 but returned to join HW in 2014.

Alison continues to advise in respect of commercial litigation matters including regulatory investigations by governmental bodies and corporate litigation including shareholder disputes. She also provides professional indemnity advice and assistance to doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals in HW's medico legal practice.

▼ *Experience*

2014 Howse Williams
1991 Richards Butler

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1986 Admission as a solicitor, Hong Kong
1985 Admission as a solicitor, England and Wales



Stacey Devoy TEP

Partner

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Stacey has over 25 years of litigation experience including several years working in London's 'Magic Circle' on complex, high value offshore trust litigation including the reported cases of Alhamrani in the Channel Islands and Minwalla, a leading family law decision of the High Court in London on 'sham' trusts that was enforced against a Jersey Trust and led to a change of legislation in Jersey.

Stacey is qualified to practice in Hong Kong, England & Wales and New Zealand. Her practice deals with all issues confronting families when new relationships are formed or when relationships break down including marital agreements, separation, divorce, custody and access disputes, international relocation of children and all financial arrangements. She was elected a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers in 2017.

Stacey is particularly known for her skilled handling of complex multi-jurisdictional disputes and cases involving substantial wealth, offshore assets or trust structures. Stacey has acted for a wide spectrum of clients from aristocrats and high net worth individuals to legally aided applicants in child abduction matters under the Hague Convention.

Stacey is a family mediator trained by Resolution in London. As a Resolution qualified Mediator Stacey assists parties to reach their own agreed and informed decisions concerning issues relating to separation, divorce, children, finance or property, by negotiation. Resolution describes Stacey's mediation style as 'insightful', 'balanced' and 'warm'.

Stacey is the author of "Divorce in Hong Kong" for LexisNexis Practical Law. She is also a member of STEP (the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners) and was awarded the STEP Diploma in International Trust Management with distinction. Her extensive experience with trusts means Stacey is often called upon to advise clients in matters of wealth preservation. Stacey advises trustees caught up in divorce litigation and families involved in trust disputes in Hong Kong and abroad.

In addition, Stacey is a member of the International Fraud Group (IFG), an elite group of handpicked lawyers across 17 countries focused on unravelling fraud and tracing and returning assets.

Stacey's international litigation credentials and connections benefit her clients wherever they encounter issues globally. Stacey's flair, technical skills and 'can do' approach attract many compliments from clients and other lawyers alike.

▼ *Experience*

2014 Howse Williams
2008 Withers, London and Hong Kong
2005 Mishcon de Reya, London
2003 Clifford Chance, London
2001 Peters & Peters, London
1990 Carlie Dowling Solicitors, New Zealand

▼ *Education*

2016 STEP Diploma in International Trust Management (Distinction)
2012 Resolution Qualified Mediator
1998 LEADR Qualified Mediator
1993 NZ Law Society Diploma Litigation Skills (Advocacy)
1990 Victoria University of Wellington, NZ, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2013 Hong Kong
2001 England and Wales
1991 New Zealand

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

2017 Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers
2016 Registered Trust & Estate Practitioner, STEP
2012 Hong Kong Family Law Association





Emma Day

Partner

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Emma specialises in shipping, international trade and commercial disputes. She has experience in both wet and dry shipping matters. Emma has extensive experience in charterparty / bill of lading and other contract of affreightment disputes, instructed by shipowners and P&I clubs, charterers and freight forwarders and other logistics providers and their insurers.

Emma's charterparty experience includes advice on withdrawal / early redelivery, off-hire, laytime and demurrage, safe ports.

She has also handled disputes arising in China including providing urgent advice to owners and charterers regarding exercise of liens, discharge of cargo and alternative discharge port options. Recently she has advised various parties following the collapse of OWB and Copenship Bulkers.

Emma handles disputes resolved by arbitration in London, Hong Kong and Singapore and Court proceedings both in Hong Kong and London.

Emma also specialises in commercial litigation with experience in shareholder's disputes and director's breach of fiduciary duties. She also has extensive experience assisting clients securing the proceeds of fraud, obtaining injunctions and disclosure orders and tracing assets. This includes serving statutory demands and winding-up proceedings where appropriate.

She is able to advise on disputes involving debt recovery, sale of goods and joint venture with experience both in Hong Kong disputes and multi-jurisdictional disputes.

Emma is qualified in UK, Australia and Hong Kong with a total of 11 years in private practice. Her experience includes working as a claim executive for a major international transport and logistics company handling a variety of claims including claims for misdelivery, cargo damage and late delivery.

▼ *Experience*

2013 Howse Williams
2012 Thomas Miller Australasia Pty Ltd.
2011 Holman Fenwick & Willan, Sydney Australia
(including a secondment to Thomas Miller Australasia Pty Ltd.)
1991 Richards Butler, Hong Kong
1988 Richards Butler, London

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2007 New South Wales, Australia
1992 Hong Kong
1988 England & Wales



William Leung

Partner

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As a prominent commercial litigator in Hong Kong, William has extensive experience in Shareholder's disputes and company's risk management issues. He has almost two decades of experience in advising companies (including listed companies) on shareholder's disputes and other regulatory issues. He also acts for both trustees and beneficiaries on contentious trust and probate matters. His clients span a wide range of industries including investment, real estate, maritime and logistics, retail, financial institutions and insurance. William also regularly acts for high net worth individuals on personal wealth matters.

William has been consistently named as one of the leading lawyers in Hong Kong. (AsiaLaw, 2013; Chambers Asia 2014 – 2017; Asia Pacific Legal 500 2014 – 2018)

William also specialises in contentious disputes covering logistics / transport, maritime arbitration and marine insurance matters. He has unrivalled experience in handling a wide range of contentious matters with a particular emphasis on bills of lading/air waybills, cargo claims, demurrage, forwarding and logistics disputes. He has advised on various marine insurance matters and various regulatory matters such as enforcement actions by Customs & Excise, Labour Department and Environmental Protection Department. He also leads a team of dedicated lawyers specialising in marine/terminal related EC/PI cases.

William leads a market leading practice and he is appointed as panel lawyer for major blue-chip insurance companies, international logistic companies, 4 out of 5 containers terminals in Hong Kong and major 3PL and 4PL providers in Hong Kong. He has also acted for prominent maritime liquidators and major shipowners and their liability insurers on substantial disputes in London and Hong Kong.

He has also advised on yacht matters including sale and purchase, collision, casualty, fire and their related insurance matters.

William regularly gives talks and seminars on shipping matters and is well known within the shipping circle. He is admitted to practice in both Hong Kong and England & Wales.

▼ *Experience*

2015 Howse Williams
2009 Eversheds
2001 DLA Piper
2000 Stevenson Wong & Co
1998 Hampton, Winter & Glynn

▼ *Education*

1997 PCLL, University of Hong Kong

1993 LLB, University of Wales / Portobello College, Dublin, Ireland

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2001 England and Wales

1999 Hong Kong

▼ *Public Posts*

Since 2018 to present	Transportation and Logistics Committee (Member) appointed by The Law Society of HKSAR (Co-option)
Since 2017 to present	The Transport Tribunals' Panel (Member) appointed by Secretary for Transport and Housing
Since 2015 to present	The Board of Review, Inland Revenue Department (Panel member)
Since 2015 to present	The Obscene Articles Tribunal (Member Adjudicator appointed by Chief Justice of HKSAR)
Since 2013 to present	Admiralty Court Users Committee appointed by Chief Justice of HKSAR (Member)



Michael Withington

Partner

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Michael is experienced in a wide range of commercial litigation, including shareholder disputes involving both listed companies and high-profile private companies (many of which involve a cross-border element). He has also acted in litigation involving financial services institutions (including mis-selling claims and negligence claims), claims involving directors, and disputes over asset acquisitions.

A large part of Michael's practice at Howse Williams involves contentious employment matters (acting for both employers and employees), including claims over termination and remuneration, enforcement of post-termination restrictions, discrimination claims and partnership disputes. He advises employers and statutory bodies on internal investigations and disciplinary proceedings, and has represented a number of individuals in SFC investigations. He also has significant experience in conducting and defending judicial review proceedings.

Michael also has extensive insurance experience, particularly in relation to the defence of professional negligence claims and advising on coverage issues. He has been a panel solicitor for the Hong Kong Solicitors Professional Indemnity Scheme since 1998, and has represented both local and international law firms in connection with a broad range of claims.

▼ *Experience*

2015 Howse Williams
2012 Gall
2002 Herbert Smith Freehills
1998 Wilkinson & Grist
1994 Haldanes

▼ *Education*

1987 The University of Sydney, LLB

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1994 Hong Kong
1994 England and Wales
1987 New South Wales, Australia

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong

▼ *Reported Decisions*

- Philippe Delhaise v Ng & Co & Erving Brettell [HCA 10165/2000; CACV 386/2003]
- Mimi Monica Wong v Mirko Sacconi [HCA 2061/2004]
- Pat Bobby Ying Ho v Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Ltd [HCCT 40/2004]
- Michael John Treloar Rowse v The Secretary for the Civil Service, The Chief Executive & The Chief Secretary for Administration [HCAL 41/2007]
- GFI (HK) Securities LLC v Kang Gyong Hee & ICAP Equities Asia Ltd [HCA 451/2015]

▼ *Professional Recognition*

Michael is currently ranked by Chambers Asia as a Band 2 employment lawyer and a Band 3 insurance lawyer. Comments include:

2017: "He has a cool, calm demeanour. We use him during a crisis."

2015: "a seasoned operator"
"a very good litigator - very experienced and steady"

2014: "is an experienced litigator who certainly knows his stuff; gives clients sensible and considerate advice."

"He is particularly adept in restrictive covenants, partnership disputes and investigations by local regulators"

2013: "very quick and very clear on providing advice" ... "his immediate response and technical support are always available"

2012: "good judgement and great technical skills"... "is a seasoned practitioner for commercial litigious matters on labour issues"

2011: "has deep rooted experience in employment litigation"



Christopher Yu

Partner

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Chris is experienced in private equity and Hong Kong capital markets transactions and regularly advises private equity clients and Hong Kong listed companies on strategic investments in and outside of Hong Kong and China. Chris is qualified as a solicitor in Hong Kong and England and Wales.

Chris represents clients in cross-border mergers and acquisitions, privatizations of Hong Kong listed companies, PIPEs, pre-IPO and cornerstone investments, primary and secondary listings of portfolio companies on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, general regulatory compliance of private equity firms in Hong Kong and of their listed portfolio companies, and a broad range of other corporate transactions.

Chris has represented major clients on many significant matters including:

- Alliance Capital as sponsor in the HK\$211million initial public offering of China Rongzhong Financial on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Zensun in the acquisition of a controlling stake in Heng Fai Enterprise Limited and the subsequent HK\$1.2 billion mandatory general offer triggered as a result of such acquisition
- Selling Shareholders in the US\$169 million Hong Kong IPO of China Shengmu on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Selling Shareholders in the US\$206 million Hong Kong IPO of Forgame on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Mando China Holdings Limited in its US\$270 million Hong Kong IPO and global offering of shares, the first Korean company's listing in Hong Kong.
- China Suntien Energy Corporation Limited on the US\$400 million Hong Kong IPO and global offering of H shares
- Morgan Stanley, Citigroup and China International Capital Corporation on the US\$2 billion Hong Kong IPO and global offering of shares by China Coal Energy Company Limited
- GCL New Energy, Sino-Credit, Lenovo, Belle International, Rusal, Guangshen Railway, China Suntien Energy, China Coal and Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical on various connected transaction disclosure, regulatory, compliance and general corporate matters
- TPG in relation to its successful US\$134 million investment in Li Ning Company Limited via purchase of shares and subscription of convertible bonds

- Hony Capital on the US\$155 million pre-IPO investments in Rongzhong Group and Rongzhong Capital. Rongzhong Group provides pawn shop services, fund management, investment banking and loan guarantee services in China. Rongzhong Capital provides financial leasing and other related financial services in China
- KKR on its pre-IPO investment in Rungdong Automobile Group and the establishment of a share incentive structure for the controlling shareholder and senior management team
- MSPE on a pre-IPO investment in a PRC-based convenience store business, Hi-24
- Lenovo Group in relation to its successful US\$671 million public takeover of Medion AG
- Petronas on its successful US\$720 million mandatory general offer for Star Energy Group PLC
- CSX Corporation and CSX World Terminals Limited in the US\$1.15 billion acquisition by Dubai Ports International of their global terminals and logistics business
- Merrill Lynch and China International Capital Corporation in their capacities as financial advisers to China Mobile (Hong Kong) Limited on a successful US\$433 million voluntary conditional cash offer for China Resources Peoples Telephone Company
- Anheuser-Busch on a US\$182 million strategic alliance with Tsingtao Brewery, an A+H share company, including increasing its stake in Tsingtao Brewery
- Bank of America Merrill Lynch on the sale of its private wealth business to Julius Baer Group

▼ *Experience*

2016 Howse Williams
 2013 Goodwin Procter, Hong Kong
 2011 Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Hong Kong
 2009 Latham & Watkins, Hong Kong
 2002 Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Hong Kong and London

▼ *Education*

2000 LL.B. (Hons), the University of Melbourne
 2000 Bachelor of Engineering (Hons), the University of Melbourne

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2005 Hong Kong
 2005 England and Wales

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Denise Che

Partner

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Denise has a range of experience in corporate finance and advisory, corporate and financial regulatory, public and private cross-border mergers and acquisitions (including privatisations), corporate restructurings and reorganisations, capital markets as well as general commercial matters. Before joining HW, Denise held a dual role overlooking both business and legal matters at an APAC independent advisory, investment and fund group and worked as a solicitor at an international law firm.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2011 Redbridge Grant Samuel
2008 Mallesons Stephen Jaques
2004 Woo, Kwan, Lee & Lo

▼ *Education*

2004 Master of Laws, University of London
2003 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, University of Hong Kong
2002 Bachelor of Laws, University of Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2008 England and Wales
2006 Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Antony Yung

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Antony has experience in a broad range of banking and finance matters, including bilateral and syndicated lending, international trade finance, project finance, acquisition finance, ship finance, general cash management and liquidity products, asset and debt recovery, security enforcement actions, banking regulation and compliance, sanctions, AML, KYC and various regulatory project and remediation works. He also specialises in a diverse range of trade finance matters, including supply chain finance programs, open account finance, letter of credit and bank guarantee disputes, export credit agency backed finance, structured trade finance, warehouse finance, prepayment and deferred payment finance, documentary credits refinance and credit risk portfolio management.

Antony previously worked at J.P. Morgan where he was an Executive Director and Assistant General Counsel. Antony set up and headed the bank's APAC trade finance legal team as well as the APAC lending practice group from 2011. He also co-headed the bank's APAC transaction services legal group. Antony has an excellent understanding of banking products, internal operations and risk appetite as a result of his in-house banking experience.

▼ *Experience*

2016 Howse Williams
2007 JP Morgan Chase
2006 Mallesons Stephen Jaques
1999 DLA Piper

▼ *Education*

2015 The University of Manchester, UK & International Compliance Association:
International Diploma in AML
2013 APLMA: Certificate in Syndicated Loan Market
2010 ifs School of Finance, UK: Certificate for Documentary Credit Specialist and Diploma
in International Trade and Finance
2009 ifs School of Finance, UK Certificate in International Trade and Finance
2004 People's (Renmin) University of China: LLM (PRC Law)
1999 City University of Hong Kong: PCLL and LLB
1995 Raimondi College, Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Qualifications and Memberships*

2016 Professional Member, International Compliance Association
2015 Council Member, IIBLP Council on International Standby Practices
2012 Legal Committee, Asia Financial Supply Chain Committee, BAFT-IFSA
2010 Certified Documentary Credit Specialist, ICC & BAFT-IFSA Endorsed
2002 Associate, Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators
2002 Associate, The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
2001 Solicitor, Hong Kong



Gilles Cardonnel

Partner

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Gilles regularly advises clients in relation to corporate transactions under Hong Kong law (mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, restructuring) and on infrastructure projects in various sectors (transport, waste, water, energy, telecoms) throughout Asia. He co-authored the Hong Kong chapter of the 2009/2010 PLC Environment Handbook.

Gilles is admitted as solicitor in Hong Kong, New South Wales (Australia), England and Wales and a French avocat. Gilles completed the last year of his honours degree at Boston University School of Law and holds a DESS in International Business Law from the University of Lyon III - Jean Moulin as well as an LL.M from the University of Melbourne.

Gilles has represented major clients on many significant transactions including:

- Acting for the International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank) and the Government of Timor-Leste on the structuring of a public private partnership scheme to develop, finance and operate health diagnostics and imaging facilities throughout the country
- Acting for Quality HealthCare in the restructuring of their corporate group and related regulatory issues
- Acted for the world's largest manufacturer of ophthalmic lenses on the acquisition of Hong Kong companies
- Acted for a CAC 40 company in relation to the contemplated takeover of a Hong Kong listed company
- Acted for Yves Rocher in relation to a distribution partnership with Henderson Land for the expansion of a distribution network for YR cosmetic products in Asia
- Acted for Petit Bateau in relation to a distribution partnership with Fung Kids (part of Li & Fung) for the expansion of the brand in Asia
- Acted for Sandro, Maje, Claudie Pierlot (SMCP) in relation to the acquisition of its distributor in Hong Kong
- Acted for Nord Anglia Education in relation to its acquisition of the Northbridge International School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Acted for Limagrain in relation to the acquisition of Seed Asia (Thailand/Cambodia)
- Acted for leading manufacturer of steel pipes for the oil and gas industry in relation to the acquisition of a 19.6% stake in a PRC company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange

- Acted for the International Finance Corporation (part of the World Bank) on its investment in a state-owned bank
- Acted for Galeries Lafayette in relation to a joint venture with Hong Kong based retail group for the development of department stores in the PRC
- Acted for Balmain in relation to two joint ventures with a Hong Kong listed company for the manufacturing and distribution of fashion products worldwide
- Acted for Veolia Transport in relation to the acquisition of the Hong Kong Tramways Company
- Acted for a leading public transport operator in relation to the restructuring of its group of companies in Asia
- Acted for large number of companies in relation to the structuring of FDI in the PRC through holding companies incorporated in Hong Kong

▼ *Experience*

2016 Howse Williams
 2008 Gide Loyrette Nouel (Hong Kong)
 2007 Latham & Watkins (Hong Kong)
 2004 Allens (Sydney)
 2002 Gide Loyrette Nouel (Paris)

▼ *Education*

1998 Master of Laws (LL.M.), University of Melbourne
 1997 Université Jean Moulin (Lyon III)
 1996 Boston University School of Law

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2011 Hong Kong
 2009 England and Wales
 2007 New South Wales (Australia)
 2002 France

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Janet Lee

Partner

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Janet advises on a wide range of property and conveyancing matters including agreements for sale and purchase; deeds of mutual covenant; tender and auction transactions; management agreements; building management; leases and tenancy agreements; land documentation, including breach of lease conditions and lease enforcement action, and property related regulatory matters.

Janet previously worked at the Lands Department in their Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office. Janet was admitted as a Solicitor in Hong Kong in 1993. She is fluent in written and spoken English, Cantonese and Mandarin.

▼ *Experience*

2016 Howse Williams
2012 Legal Advisory and Conveyancing Office, Lands Department
1998 Charles Yeung Clement Lam Liu & Yip, Solicitors

▼ *Education*

PCLL, University of Hong Kong
LLB, University of Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

1994 England and Wales
1993 Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Heidi Lee

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Heidi has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, public takeovers, regulatory and compliance work for Hong Kong listed companies. Heidi also has an established track record advising on equity capital markets transactions (including Hong Kong Main Board as well as other capital markets fund raising transactions) including initial public offerings and secondary offerings in Hong Kong for both state-owned and privately-owned companies in China and overseas, whether as issuer's or underwriters' counsel (all involving leading investment banks).

Heidi has been named by Legal 500 Asia Pacific as one of the top Next Generation Lawyers under both categories of Corporate (including M&A) and Capital Markets.

▼ *Experience*

2016 Howse Williams
2015 Ashurst Hong Kong
2011 Simpson Thacher & Bartlett
2009 Clifford Chance
2007 Baker & McKenzie

▼ *Education*

2004 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, University of Hong Kong
2003 Bachelor of Laws, University of Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Admissions / Qualifications*

2008 England and Wales
2006 Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Karen Lam

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Karen was admitted to practice law in New South Wales, Australia in 2007 and Hong Kong in 2008. Karen's practice focuses on family law matters with emphasis on matrimonial disputes including divorce and separation, child custody, wardship and financial applications, third party interests, injunctions and settlements. Karen's other areas of focus are will drafting, probate and general civil litigation matters. Karen has litigation experience in the Court of Appeal, High Court, District Court and Family Court in Hong Kong.

Karen is a member of the Family Law Committee of the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Family Law Association. Karen was involved in the establishment of and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Collaborative Practice Group.

Karen is an Accredited Mediator on the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre's (HKIAC) Panel of General Mediators and is a Civil Celebrant of Marriages in Hong Kong.

Karen teaches the part time PCLL Course at The University of Hong Kong.

Karen speaks fluent English, Cantonese and Chinese Mandarin.

▼ *Experience*

2012 Howse Williams
2009 Ip & Heathfield
2008 Boase, Cohen & Collins

▼ *Education*

PCLL, City University of Hong Kong
Bachelor of Laws, University of New South Wales, Australia
Bachelor of Commerce, University of New South Wales, Australia

▼ *Professional Admissions / Qualifications*

2008 Hong Kong
2007 New South Wales, Australia
2010 Accredited General Mediator
2016 Civil Celebrant of Marriages

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member of the Family Law Committee, The Law Society of Hong Kong

Member of Executive Committee, Hong Kong Family Law Association

Member of Executive Committee, Hong Kong Collaborative Practice Group

Member, LAWASIA

Member, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals



Eviana Leung

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Eviana is one of our partners specialising in commercial litigation and marine disputes. She has been admitted to practice in Hong Kong since 2008.

With her strong Chinese language skills (Eviana is fluent in both written Chinese and oral Mandarin) and broad exposure to the Chinese market, Eviana focuses on cross border practice and often acts for Mainland, foreign and local corporations and private clients, ranging from state-owned enterprise, senior management, start-up companies, Chinese insurers to high net worth individuals. She focuses on the firm's China practice and mainly advises on shareholders disputes, trade conflicts, recovery of high value debts, arbitration, injunction and other procedural matters.

Eviana started off as a litigator handling commercial disputes and private clients matters. She then focused on the marine and international trade practice. Prior to joining Howse Williams, Eviana was promoted as senior associate of an international law firm regularly acting for prominent insurers and local and foreign corporations in a variety of commercial, trade disputes and regulatory matters.

Eviana offers practical solutions and strategic planning to accommodate clients' business and personal needs. As an experienced litigator, she has both contentious and non-contentious practices which cover a wide spectrum over cross border and international trade disputes, liquidation and bankruptcy, shareholders disputes, insurance, regulatory and enforcement, and marine.

Eviana speaks fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese.

▼ *Experience*

2018 Howse Williams (Partner), Maritime & Commercial Litigation
2015 Howse Williams (Senior Associate), Maritime & Commercial Litigation 2014
Eversheds (Senior Associate), Dispute Resolution
2012 Reynold Porter Chamberlain (formerly known as Smyth & Co.)
2011 Clyde & Co.
2010 Barlow Lyde & Gilbert (merged with Clyde & Co. since 1 November 2011)
2008 Wilkinson & Grist

▼ *Education*

2006 PCLL, City University of Hong Kong
2005 LLB, King's College London

▼ *Professional Qualifications*

2013 Accredited Mediator on the HKMAAL general panel

2011 Accredited Mediator on the HKIAC general panel

2008 Solicitors of HKSAR

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

2018 Fellow Member of the Hong Kong Sea Transport and Logistics Association

2018 Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
(CMILT)



Patricia Yeung

Partner

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Patricia has focused on employment law since qualifying as a solicitor in 2011, and her experience in employment matters is now widely recognised in Hong Kong. Patricia heads up HW's employment team, which consists of two partners (including Patricia) and three associates.

Patricia regularly advises employers and senior executives on both contentious and non-contentious employment matters. Her practice covers a wide range of work, including drafting employment contracts, handbooks and policies, terminations and advising upon the enforcement of post-termination restrictions and confidentiality obligations. She and her team frequently advise on the employment aspects of M&A deals and business transfers. Many of her clients operate in the financial services sector, and she frequently negotiates exit packages in relation to high-level employees of banks, brokerages and insurance companies. Patricia also advises upon the employment issues arising from discrimination and harassment, personal data related matters and immigration issues (including prosecutions). She also has experience in assisting employers and employees during the conduct of internal investigations and discrimination/harassment complaints.

Patricia has an in-depth knowledge of the Labour Tribunal, having assisted parties involved in Labour Tribunal proceedings for several years. She has also represented both plaintiffs and defendants in both District and High Court actions involving substantial claims for unpaid bonuses, enforcement of restrictive covenants and claims for injunctive relief in Hong Kong, including applications for injunctive relief. She also advises clients on licencing issues and regulatory investigations involving the SFC and the HKMA.

▾ *Professional Recognition*

Patricia has been ranked by Legal 500 as a Next Generation Lawyer in 2017 and by Chambers Asia as an Associate to Watch from 2015-2017. Comments include:

2017: "She's very impressive and practical"

2015: "She's great; she knows what the situation with the case is all the time. She's very on the ball, really tough and really smart."

Patricia has also been listed in the Labour and Employment section of the 2017 edition of Who's Who Legal.

Patricia is the author of the 'Hong Kong Employment Ordinance - An Annotated Guide', which is published by Lexis Nexis.

▼ *Experience*

2015 Howse Williams

2008 Gall Solicitors

▼ *Education*

2008 The University of Hong Kong, Postgraduate Certificate in Laws

2007 Cardiff University, Master of Laws in Commercial Law

2006 BPP Law School, Legal Practice Course

▼ *Professional Admissions/Qualifications*

2011 Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Stephen Leung

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Stephen is experienced in a broad range of corporate transactions including private equity and Hong Kong capital markets transactions. He has also advised various Hong Kong listed companies on corporate governance and legal and regulatory compliance matters.

In recent years, he was involved in various IPOs, which include:

- acting on behalf of Shanghai Realway Capital Assets Management Company Limited for its HK\$191 million listing on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of share offer in 2018. The Company was the first investment fund manager to obtain approval for the issuance of H-Shares by the China Securities Regulatory Commission of the PRC.
- acting on behalf of the sponsor for the HK\$80 million listing of Gemilang International Limited on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2016.
- acting on behalf of China Rongzhong Financial Holdings Company Limited for its HK\$211 million listing on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2016.
- acting on behalf of Dining Concepts Holdings Limited for its HK\$90 million listing on the GEM board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of placing in 2016.
- acting on behalf of the sponsor for the HK\$135 million listing of SFK Construction Holdings Limited on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2015.
- acting on behalf of the sponsor for the HK\$128 million listing of Guru Online (Holdings) Limited on the GEM board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of placing in 2015.
- acting on behalf of the sponsor for the HK\$154 million listing of Chun Sing Engineering Holdings Limited on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of public offer and placing in 2014.

▼ Experience

2016 Howse Williams

2016 Goodwin Procter, Hong Kong

2012 Pang & Co in association with Salans LLP

2007 Sit Fung Kwong & Shum

▼ Education

2007 University of Hong Kong, PCLL

2006 University of Warwick, LLM with International Economic Law

2005 College of Law, London, Graduate Diploma in Law
2004 Imperial College London, MSci in Chemistry

▼ Professional Qualifications

2009 Solicitor, Hong Kong



Maureen Liu

Partner

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Maureen specialises in dispute resolution and medico-legal issues advising healthcare professionals and hospitals on clinical negligence claims and complaints, Coroner's inquests and disciplinary proceedings. Maureen is fluent in English, Cantonese and Mandarin.

▼ Experience

2012 Howse Williams

2011 Reed Smith Richards Butler

2008 Richards Butler in Association with Reed Smith LLP

▼ Education

2008 Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL), The University of Oxford

2007 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL), The University of Hong Kong

2006 Bachelor of Laws (LLB), The University of Hong Kong

▼ Professional Admissions / Qualifications

Hong Kong

▼ Professional Affiliations

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Kevin So

Partner

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Kevin advises on a wide range of complex commercial litigation matters. He has extensive experience in civil and commercial disputes including banking, company, insolvency, trusts and estates and real estate matters. Kevin also advises on regulatory matters including criminal prosecutions and investigations by regulators and authorities including the Securities and Futures Commission, the Commercial Crime Bureau and the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Kevin's clients include banks, large corporations and ultra high net-worth individuals both in Hong Kong and the PRC.

Kevin was named as the Rising Star of the Year at the Asialaw and Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Awards 2018. He has also been named as a Future Star (Commercial and Transactions) by Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific in 2018 and 2019.

▼ Experience

2019 Howse Williams
2017 Davis Polk & Wardwell
2009 Clifford Chance
2007 Mayer Brown JSM

▼ Education

2006 LLB London School of Economics and Political Science

▼ Professional Admissions / Qualifications

Hong Kong
England and Wales



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