

 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: In respect of matrimonial and relationship breakdown, our clients are inevitably undergoing a stressful and difficult period in their lives; we provide a personal, practical and cost-oriented approach. We work closely with other professionals in the field of family disputes, including psychologists and accountants, but particularly mediators, to provide the best solutions for our clients. We fully support dispute resolution in the form of mediation, both in respect of children and financial matters; two members of our department are trained in collaborative practice. We are accessible, respond immediately when emergencies arise and provide our services efficiently and effectively. Our clients' privacy and confidentiality are treated with the utmost importance. We ensure that our clients have a realistic idea of what can be achieved. We have no hesitation in taking action by way of legal proceedings immediately if the necessity arises, but overall our approach is conciliatory. We are mindful that the cases we handle are very sensitive and frequently involve children. We provide practical solutions and protect our clients' interests.

Our clients include a broad range of individuals from all walks of life, including spouses and partners who have devoted substantial time to the home and bringing up children, as well as professionals, business owners, and people well known in the community. Our clients frequently have connections with other jurisdictions around the world. Consequently our children cases often cover the circumstances of international child abduction or applications for permanent relocation of children to other countries. The vast majority of our cases cover assets in multiple jurisdictions around the world, ranging from modest assets to families with complex commercial structures and high net worth.

Trusts and Wealth Preservation: Our team has extensive experience advising high and ultra high net worth individuals and their families, entrepreneurs, family businesses and trustees from Hong Kong, the PRC, or internationally.

We are trusted legal advisers providing advice and support to our clients on a wide range of contentious and non-contentious wealth preservation, inheritance and succession matters. Our private clients range from high profile to discreet individuals.

Our team includes solicitors who are full members of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) and are registered Trust and Estate Practitioners.



Wills, Probate & Estate Administration: Our Family Department assists clients in probate matters and with all aspects of estate planning and administration, from the drafting of wills and letters of wishes to taking out the necessary applications in court to protect and administer estates. We deal with estates of all sizes for clients both local and overseas. In particular, our probate practice has an international element and we frequently advise with respect to estate matters which involve several jurisdictions, including probate in those jurisdictions or the re-sealing of wills. We provide expert opinions on Hong Kong probate law in foreign probate proceedings.

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, asset-backed 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, factoring, 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.

Notarisations and China Attestation: We offer Notary and China Attestation services to our clients.

We have an in-house Notary Public who is a member of the Hong Kong Society of Notaries.

We also have two partners, Brian Ho and Chris Yu who are China Appointed Attesting Officers and members of the Association of China Appointed Attesting Officers Limited. China-Appointed Attesting Officers ("Attesting Officers") are qualified Hong Kong lawyers who have been appointed by the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China after passing the prescribed qualifying examinations. Their scope of business includes attesting and certifying acts, matters and documents of legal significance occurring in or emanating from Hong Kong and such attested documents are for use in Mainland China. The namelist of all China-Appointed Attesting Officers are available at the Office and Website of the "Association of China-Appointed Attesting Officers". To be legally valid and protected by the laws of the PRC, attested documents issued by Attesting Officers for use in Mainland China must be sent to the "China Legal Services (H.K.) Limited" for "Sealing and Transfer Delivery".



Chris Howse

Partner

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Chris was admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 1981 after being seconded by the London office of a city law firm, Richards Butler, to build up its Hong Kong office. He was the Senior Partner and Managing Partner of the Hong Kong office of Richards Butler until December 2011. Following the takeover of Richards Butler Hong Kong by an American law firm he set up Howse Williams Bowers on 1 January 2012 with a large number of partners and solicitors from the Hong Kong office of Richards Butler. The firm is now one of the largest independent law firms in Hong Kong.

Chris is experienced in a wide range of commercial litigation. He has extensive insurance experience, particularly in relation to the defence of professional negligence claims. Chris is the head of the firm's medico-legal team. He started to undertake medico-legal work in 1985. He has been providing professional advice and assistance to doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals and to the private hospitals of Hong Kong on a wide range of medico-legal issues for over 30 years. His firm have been panel lawyers for the Medical Protection Society and Dental Protection Ltd. since the mid-1980s.

Chris is also experienced in international trade disputes. He advises ship-owners, charterers and various property and liability insurers.

▼ *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 Admissions / Qualifications*

1978 England and Wales
1981 Hong Kong
1988 Australia

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 two 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 Admissions / 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

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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 30 years ago and has specialized in healthcare law since.

Nowadays David and Chris Howse lead a team of healthcare lawyers, which is the largest team of its kind in HK, with extensive experience in defending clinical negligence 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 CFA. David has substantial advocacy experience before the Civil Courts, Coroner's Court, Medical and Dental Council and other professional tribunals. He appreciates the importance of getting involved in a case and managing the evidence and strategies from day 1.

David has a Master's Degree in Medical Law and Ethics which puts him on good stead in providing regulatory advice to healthcare institutions including hospitals, biotechnology companies, medical device manufacturers and specialist group practices. He has a special interest in advising on mental health law, medical criminal proceedings, clinical trials, and due diligence in corporate transactions.

In 2008, David was appointed as an Honorary Associate Professor by the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong. He regularly lectures at the University as well as to the Specialist Colleges. He provides clients with training in clinical risk management.

David keeps up to date with clinical medicine. He has served on various governing boards including those of a government hospital and a major international school. He is 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

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

▼ Professional Admissions / Qualifications

1999 Hong Kong
1998 England and Wales
MA (Med Law), MBBS, MFFLM, BMed Sci (Hons), PDipCAH

▼ Professional Affiliations

Honorary Legal Advisor of The Hong Kong Ophthalmological Society, Hong Kong Medical Association, Hong Kong Dental Association, British Medical Association of Hong Kong, Association of Private Eye Surgeons, Federation of Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Association of Private Medical Specialists of (HK), The College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Community Psychological Medicine Association (HKCPMA), Hong Kong Doctors Union and Eye Care Charitable Foundation Limited

Others:

Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
Member, Hospital Governing Committee of the Shatin Hospital
Founding Member, Faculty of Legal and Forensic Medicine, Royal College of Physicians UK
Member, Ethics Committee for the Hong Kong College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Previously Panel Member, Guardianship Board of Hong Kong
Previously Vice-chairman, New Medico-Legal Society of Hong Kong
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 Admissions / 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, Law Society of Hong Kong



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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 a wide variety of shipping interests including marine and non-marine insurers. David also has extensive experience outside of international trade matters, including dealing with, insolvency matters, shareholder disputes and the recovery and tracing 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 both Court proceedings and Arbitrations concerning a wide range of disputes 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 Admissions / 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



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A medically qualified solicitor, Bernard represents healthcare organisations, doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons and other healthcare professionals across a range of practice areas. Bernard supports clients in Medical Council, Dental Council and Veterinary Surgeons Board disciplinary proceedings and coroners investigations, from the commencement of investigations through to appearing on behalf of clients at disciplinary inquiries and coroners inquests.

An Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Accident and Emergency Medicine Academic Unit, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Bernard teaches on the university's Master of Science Programme in Prehospital and Emergency Care and on the Postgraduate Diploma in Prehospital and Emergency Care. Bernard also provides expert witness training to doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals involved/interested in expert witness work.

A graduate of Aberdeen University Medical School, 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. 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.

Since 2008, Bernard has been a Member of the Faculty of Forensic Legal Medicine, Royal College of Physicians UK. In 2021 he received a Foundation Fellowship (Dento-legal Adviser) of the Faculty of Forensic Legal Medicine, Royal College of Physicians UK.

▼ *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 (PCLL)
2001 Manchester Metropolitan University, Postgraduate Diploma in Law (PGDL)
1988 University of Aberdeen, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)

▼ *Professional Admissions / Qualifications*

2021 Ireland
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 UK

Foundation Fellow (Dento-legal adviser) Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine, Royal College of Physicians UK

Member, British Medical Association of Hong Kong

Member, Law Society of England and Wales

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong

Member, Law Society of Ireland



Brian Ho

Partner

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Brian Ho is one of the partners of HW. He 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.

Brian has led, executed and completed IPOs for companies based in Hong Kong, China, Singapore and Malaysia in consumer products, medical, construction, industrial, technology, food and beverages, property, financial sectors. 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 high profile ECM transactions.

▼ *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 Admissions / 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 Greater China Legal Affairs Committee

▼ Deal List

IPOs

- Acted for First Shanghai Capital in the HK\$125 million IPO of Wah Wo Holdings Group Limited (stock code: 9938) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for Dongxing Securities (Hong Kong) in the HK\$400 million IPO of Activation Group Holdings Limited (stock code: 9919) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for CMBC Capital in the HK\$477 million IPO of Dalipal Holdings Limited (stock code: 1921) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for Alliance Capital in the HK\$125 million IPO of JBB Builders International Limited (stock code: 1903) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for Ample Capital in the HK\$95 million IPO of MOS House Group Limited (stock code: 1653) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for Ample Capital in the HK\$46 million IPO of WAC Holdings Limited (stock code: 8619) on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the issuer, Wah Sun Handbags International Holdings Limited (stock code: 2683) in its HK\$118 million IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, DBS was the sponsor
- Acted for the issuer, ZACD Group Limited (stock code: 8313) in its HK\$160 million IPO on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, China Everbright Capital and Innovax Capital were the joint sponsors
- Acted for Halcyon Capital in the HK\$155 million IPO of Trio Industrial Electronics Group Limited (stock code: 1710) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for Sunfund Capital in the HK\$55 million IPO of Satu Holdings Limited (stock code: 8392) on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for Ample Capital in the HK\$104 million IPO of Milestone Building Holdings Limited (stock code: 1667) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the issuer, GME Group Holdings Limited (stock code: 8188) in its HK\$67.5 million IPO on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Altus Capital was the sponsor
- Acted for the issuer, Able Engineering Holdings Company Limited (stock code: 1627) in its HK\$550 million IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Ample Capital was the sponsor

- Acted for Sinolink Securities (HK) in the HK\$262 million IPO of Morris Holdings Limited (stock code: 1575) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the issuer, Guangdong Adway Construction (Group) Holdings Company Limited (stock code: 6189) in its HK\$274 million IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Guotai Junan International was the sponsor
- Acted for Alliance Capital in the HK\$80 million IPO of Gemilang International Limited (stock code: 6163) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for BOSC International in the HK\$60 million IPO of Expert Systems Holdings Limited (stock code: 8319) on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the issuer, China Rongzhong Financial Holdings Company Limited (stock code: 3963) in its HK\$211 million IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Alliance Capital was the sponsor
- Acted for the issuer, BBI Life Sciences Corporation (stock code: 1035) in the HK\$230 million IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Haitong International was the sponsor
- Acted for Shenyin Wenguo Capital in the HK\$60 million IPO of Medicskin Holdings Limited (stock code: 8307) on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the issuer, Nga Chun Holdings Company Limited (stock code: 1462) in the HK\$110 million IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Ample Capital was the sponsor
- Acted for Altus Capital in the HK\$45 million IPO of Kate China Holdings Limited (stock code: 8125) on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the issuer, Korador Holdings Limited (stock code: 3709), in its HK\$525 million IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Haitong International and CIMB were the sponsors
- Acted for Mizuho Securities in the HK\$60 million IPO of Excel Development (Holdings) Limited (stock code: 1372) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted as Joint Sponsor and Joint Bookrunner in the US\$395m initial public offering of Chinalco Mining Corporation International (stock code: 3668) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted as Joint Sponsor and Joint Bookrunner in the US\$68m initial public offering of Xiao Nan Guo Restaurants Holdings Limited (stock code: 3666) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acting as the Sole Sponsor in the listing by way of introduction of Elec & Eltek International Company Limited (stock code: 1151) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange

- Acted as the Sole Sponsor in the listing by way of introduction of China New Town Development Company Limited (stock code: 1278) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the manager in the US\$910 million IPO of Champion REIT (stock code: 2778) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, BofA Merrill Lynch was the sole listing agent
- Acted for the issuer, China Coal Energy Company Limited (stock code: 1898), in its US\$1.6 billion IPO on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, CICC, Citibank and Morgan Stanley were the sponsors
- Acted for BofA Merrill Lynch and BNP Paribas in the US\$504m IPO of Nine Dragons Paper (Holdings) Limited (stock code: 2689) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for CICC and BofA Merrill Lynch in the US\$1.11 billion IPO of Air China Limited (stock code: 753) on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange

Rights Issues

- Acted for the UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$156 million rights issue of Q Technology (Group) Limited (stock code: 1478)
- Acted for the UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$719 million rights issue of Coolpad Group Limited (stock code: 2369)

Placings

- Acted for China Youzan Limited (stock code: 8083) in the HK\$793 million placing of new shares
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$328 million placing of new shares of Meilleure Health International Industry Group Limited (stock code: 2327)
- Acted for Truly International Holdings Limited (stock code: 732) in its HK\$199 million placing of new shares
- Acted for the UOB Kay Hian and China Merchants Securities in the HK\$133 million placing of new shares of China Biotech Services Holdings Limited (stock code: 8037)
- Acted for Dafeng Port Heshun Technology Company Limited (stock code: 8310) in its US\$50 million 7.5% senior secured notes due 2021
- Acted for Morris Holdings Limited (stock code: 1575) in its HK\$200 million issuance of convertible loan to International Finance Corporation
- Acted for the UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$436 million placing of new shares of Colour Life Services Group Co., Limited (stock code: 1778)

- Acted for the UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$28.7 million top-up placing of new shares of Centron Telecom International Holding Limited (stock code: 1155)
- Acted for Truly International Holdings Limited (stock code: 732) in its HK\$323 million placing of new shares
- Acted for Haitong International and Huarong Financial in the HK\$1.18 billion top-up placing of new shares of Jiayuan International Group Limited (stock code: 2768)
- Acted for Haitong International, Emperor Securities and EBS International in the HK\$725 million placing of new shares of Carnival Group International Holdings Limited (stock code: 996)
- Acted for the Medicskin Holdings Limited (stock code: 8307) in the HK\$52 million placing of new shares
- Acted for the Dafeng Port Heshun Technology Company Limited (stock code: 8310) in the HK\$97 million placing of new shares
- Acted for the controlling shareholder of Koradior Holdings Limited (stock code: 3709) in relation to the HK\$232 million disposal of shares in Koradior to Fosun Group
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$87.5 million placing of new shares of Miko International Holdings Limited (stock code: 1247)
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$230 million placing of new shares of China Creative Home Group Limited (stock code: 1678)
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$97 million placing of new shares of Xingye Copper International Group Limited (stock code: 505)
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$1,275 million top up placing of shares of Sunshine 100 China Holdings Limited (stock code: 2608)
- Acted for UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$900 million placing of new shares of AID Partners Holdings Limited (stock code: 8088)
- Acted for UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$400 million placing of new shares of Beijingwest Industries International Limited (stock code: 2339)
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$133 million placing of new shares of C Y Foundation Group Limited (stock code: 1182)
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$167 million top up placing of shares and the HK\$240 million placing of convertible notes of Up Energy Development Group Limited (stock code: 307)

- Acted for Haitong International and Huatai Financial in the HK\$792 million placing of new shares of Yuzhou Properties Company Limited (stock code: 1628)
- Acted for Haitong International in the HK\$1,724 million placing of new shares of China Oceanwide Holdings Limited (stock code: 715)
- Acted for CICC, First Shanghai, Kingston Securities and UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$1,404 million placing of new shares of Kong Sun Holdings Limited (stock code: 295)
- Acted for Haitong International, Kingston Securities and UOB Kay Hian in the HK\$376 million placing of new shares of Kong Sun Holdings Limited (stock code: 295)

M&A Transactions

- Acted for Hanergy Thin Film Power Group Limited (stock code: 566) in relation to its privatisation and delisting from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of a scheme of arrangement
- Acted for Morris Holdings Limited (stock code: 1575) in its US\$35 million acquisition of the entire equity interest in Jennifer Convertibles, Inc.
- Acted for Dafeng Port Heshun Technology Company Limited (stock code: 8310) in its RMB405 million acquisition of the entire equity interest in Jiangsu Hairong Dafeng Port Petrochemical Product Terminal Company Limited
- Acted for Huarong Investment Stock Corporation Limited (stock code: 2277) in its HK\$120 million investment in Retech Technology Co. Limited, a company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, by way of shares and convertible bond
- Acted for Quam Limited (stock code: 952) and its controlling shareholders in relation to the HK\$1.05 billion disposal of its controlling interest of Quam and the mandatory general offer for all the remaining shares of Quam by China Oceanwide
- Acted for Shandong Luoxin Pharmaceutical Group Stock Co., Ltd. (stock code: 8058) in relation to a voluntary general offer over the H Shares of the company and its subsequent delisting from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Acted for the controlling shareholder and the offeree company, Nga Chun Holdings Company Limited (stock code: 1462) in relation to the HK\$1 billion disposal of its controlling interest of Nga Chun and the mandatory general offer for all the remaining shares of Nga Chun
- Acted for the controlling shareholder and the offeree company, Excel Development (Holdings) Company Limited (stock code: 1372) in relation to the HK\$647 million disposal of its controlling interest of Excel and the mandatory general offer for all the remaining shares of Excel

- Acted for the controlling shareholder of Chun Wo Development Holdings Limited (stock code: 711) in relation to the HK\$560 million disposal of its controlling interest of Chun Wo and the offeror in relation to the voluntary general offer of all the shares of a private company of Chun Wo
- Acted for the offeror, Dafeng Port Overseas Investment Holdings Limited in relation to the HK\$425 million acquisition of the controlling interest of Gamma Logistics Corporation (stock code: 8310) and the subsequent mandatory general offer for all the shares of Gamma



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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 Admissions / 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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Based in Hong Kong since 2007, Chia Ching is a dual qualified practicing lawyer in Hong Kong and Malaysia. She has over 19 years of experience in a wide range of corporate and commercial matters including IPOs, spin-offs, transfer of listings, corporate restructuring, acquisition and disposal, general corporate advisory and regulatory compliance.

Benefitting from her practice experiences in both Hong Kong and Malaysia, she is familiar with the Listing Rules, Takeovers Code and the laws of both Hong Kong and Malaysia. This serves as a strong foundation and provides her with better insights and competitive edge in understanding businesses from, not only the South East Asian countries, but also from Hong Kong and China. “*She is experienced in assisting Southeast Asian companies with Hong Kong listings*” (quoted from *Legal 500* in 2020). She is familiar with a wide spectrum of industries, including but not limited to oil and gas, independent power plants, mining, manufacturing, media, telecommunications, agriculture/plantations, real estates, construction, digital platforms, healthcare, retail, technology, education and general trading. She reads and writes English, Chinese and Malay languages, and is fluent in speaking all three languages, as well as Putonghua, Cantonese and Hokkien.

Chia Ching was involved in a number of notable initial public offerings and listings on the Stock Exchange acting for the sponsors as well as the issuers, both on the Main Board and GEM, including the first listing of a mineral company under Chapter 18 of the Listing Rules in 2008, the first business trust in the form of stapled securities of HKT Trust in 2011 and a dual-listing (Singapore and Hong Kong) in 2017. On M&A transactions, Chia Ching was involved in a number of local and cross-border acquisitions as well as public takeovers. She also advises listed companies on Listing Rules compliance matters post listing and secondary fund-raising.

Chia Ching has represented major clients on many significant matters including:

- Altus Capital as sponsor in the HK\$368 million spin-off and separate listing of Pentamaster International Limited on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange;
- VBG Capital Limited in the dual listing of Centurion Corporation Limited on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, which has business operations in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, South Korea, United Kingdom and United States
- Fortune Financial Capital in the listing of Pipeline Engineering Holdings Limited on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange

- Dakin Capital in the IPO of VBG International Holdings Limited on GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- A.Plus Group Holdings Limited in the transfer of listing from GEM to Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Icicle Group Holdings Limited in its IPO on GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Deson Construction International Holdings Limited in the spin-off and separate listing on the GEM of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange together with distribution in specie,
- OUE Group for the listing of S\$346.4 million OUE Commercial REIT on the Main Board of the Singapore Stock Exchange
- CapitaMalls Asia Limited in its privatisation and withdrawal of listing from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- Deson Construction International Holdings Limited on its takeovers by an individual followed by mandatory takeover offer
- Deson Construction International Holdings Limited in its placing of convertible bonds
- Lippo Limited and Hongkong Chinese Limited in the disposal of interest in Macau Chinese Bank
- HKT Trust in its HK\$8.8 billion spin-off and separate listing of share stapled units of on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong
- CVM Minerals Limited in the first listing of mining company under Chapter 18 of the Listing Rules of on the Main Board of Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- BNP Paribas in the HK\$4.9 billion of spin-off and listing of Dah Chong Hong Holdings Limited on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
- China Merchants Holdings in relation to its acquisition of a pallet hire group of companies based in Australia and ASEAN countries for approximately AUD600 million
- Malakoff Berhad in its US\$2.6 billion (or RM9.3 billion) privatisation and delisting from Bursa Malaysia by way of asset disposal and capital reduction.

▼ *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 Admissions / Qualifications*

2008 Hong Kong

2001 Malaysia

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Jill Wong

Partner

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Mobile +852 5180 1836
Fax +852 2803 3608
Email jill.wong@howsewilliams.com

Jill has extensive experience advising on banking and securities laws, data privacy, cybercrime and financial crime issues. She advises on both contentious (investigations, dawn raids, penalties, etc.) and non-contentious (business initiatives, licensing, client documents and disclosures, regulatory gap analysis) matters; and is eminently well-placed to advise clients from both perspectives.

She was previously Deputy General Counsel at the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and was in-house counsel at Credit Suisse. In addition, Jill has also worked in leading international law firms in Hong Kong. This combination of different legal roles allow her to provide constructive insights into the issues and challenges facing listed companies, financial institutions, their senior managers and professional advisers.

Jill 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. In addition to the financial services regulators (SFC, HKMA, HKEX), she also deals with other authorities such as the police, ICAC and Privacy Commissioner.

Jill is also active in advising clients on emerging regulatory issues such as ESG, virtual assets and NFTs.

Jill is one of the authors of "Securities and Futures Ordinance": Commentary and Annotations, published by Thomson Reuters (now preparing its 5th edition), and she speaks regularly at client events and industry conferences. She served on the Disciplinary Panel of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants for several years and is currently the Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce's Financial Markets Committee in Hong Kong. She is on the Editorial Board of LexisNexis's Practical Guidance series and issues the SFC Enforcement Tracker for the series. She is regularly identified as a leading lawyer in legal directories.

▼ *Experience*

2013 Howse Williams
2011 King & Wood Mallesons
2007 Credit Suisse
2004 Clifford Chance
2001 Allen & Overy
1994 Hong Kong Monetary Authority

▼ *Education*

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

▼ *Professional Admissions / Qualifications*

1996 Hong Kong
1995 England & Wales
Admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor in Malaysia

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of England and Wales
Member, Law Society of Hong Kong
Chairman, British Chamber of Commerce Financial Markets Committee



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 Admissions / Qualifications*

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

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Stacey Devoy TEP

Partner

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Stacey brings to Howse Williams 30 years' experience as a litigator. 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.

Prior to specializing in family law, Stacey worked in London's 'Magic Circle' dealing with 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. 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 advises trustees caught up in divorce litigation and families involved in trust disputes in Hong Kong and abroad. She is often called upon to advise families in matters of wealth preservation, including the preparation of domestic and/or international nuptial agreements.

As a LEADR qualified 'all issues' mediator and specialist family mediator trained by Resolution in London, Stacey also assists parties to make informed decisions and reach agreed outcomes concerning issues relating to separation, divorce, children, finance or property, by negotiation and without recourse to the courts. 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 Registered Trusts & Estates Practitioner with STEP (the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners) and is chairperson of STEP's Matrimonial Sub-Committee in Hong Kong. Stacey has been awarded the STEP Diploma in International Trust Management with distinction.

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.

According to Chambers Asia Pacific Guide, Stacey is 'quickly establishing a reputation in the market' and is 'definitely someone who is making an impact on family law' (2020); 'She is excellent - very committed with sound judgement and a terrific client manner' (2021).

▼ *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 Admissions / 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





William Leung

Partner

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As a prominent commercial litigator with more than 22 years solid experience, William with his team of fee earners specialize in the following:

Commercial litigation

William's commercial practice ranges from companies'/shareholder's disputes, joint venture disputes, winding up/bankruptcy, restructuring and corporate risk management issues. His clients would include prominent liquidators, corporates, listed companies, banks/lenders, investors, charitable organisations to private/corporate shareholders. Notably, William and his team have recently been involved in a number of large winding up/re-restructuring matters.

William also acts for both trustees and beneficiaries on contentious trust and probate matters particularly on high net worth individuals on personal wealth matters.

William also handles general debt recovery matters for listed companies and is known for his efficiency and costs effectiveness producing great results for clients.

He has ample experience in acting for both Claimants and Recipients for funds internet fraud cases.

Insurance litigation

William acts for more than 10 large international/PRC insurers covering public liability, property, marine, travel, EC/PI insurance. He is also a leading advisor in dealing with riot and COVID19 related claims for various insurers.

William regularly gives talks and seminars on insurance matters due to his high acclaim within the industry.

He leads a large team of dedicated lawyers specialising in insurance disputes covering public liability, property damage marine, yacht and EC/PI matters.

Transport litigation

William acts for shipping companies, forwarders, international logistic companies, four of the largest container terminals in Hong Kong and leading warehouse operators along with their liability/property insurers. He has unrivalled experience in handling a wide range of contentious matters on bills of lading/air waybills, cargo claims, forwarding, warehousing and logistics disputes. Particularly he is a leading figure in advising container terminals on their emergency casualty, employment, risks and property damage matters. He has advised on transport related regulatory matters such as enforcement actions by Customs & Excise, Labour Department, Environmental Protection Department and ICAC.

William is also on the Transport and Logistics Committee of the Law Society of Hong Kong.

Pleasure crafts

William has vast experience on yacht matters including sale and purchase, collision, casualty, fire and their related personal injury, insurance and litigation matters.

Escrow agent / accounts

William frequently advises on escrow agent / account agreements and their litigation risks to facilitate sale and purchase of valuable yachts, club debentures offshore properties and antiques/ paintings etc. In appropriate cases, our firm will act as escrow agent or stakeholder.

Accreditation

William has been consistently named as one of the leading lawyers in Hong Kong by various legal directories. He is admitted to practice law in both Hong Kong and England & Wales.

William also holds a number of public posts with a view to rewarding the society.

▼ *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 Solicitor of England and Wales
1999 Solicitor of Hong Kong

▼ *Public Office*

Since 2021 Member of Patient Complaint Committee of The Prince Philip Dental Hospital
Since 2018 Transportation and Logistics Committee of The Law Society of The Hong Kong (Co-option)
Since 2017 The Transport Tribunals' Panel (Member) appointed by Secretary for Transport and Housing
Since 2015 The Board of Review, Inland Revenue Department (Panel member) to Dec 2020
Since 2015 The Obscene Articles Tribunal (Member Adjudicator appointed by Chief Justice of HKSAR) to Aug 2020



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. He advises property managers and landlords in relation to enforcement of deeds of mutual covenant and tenancy disputes.

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 Admissions / 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 Admissions / 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 Admissions / 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



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 Admissions / Qualifications*

1994 England and Wales
1993 Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Heidi Lee

Partner

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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, pre- and post-nuptial agreements and settlements. Karen's other areas of focus are will drafting, probate and general civil litigation matters.

Karen is a member of the Family Law Committee of the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Committee of the Hong Kong Family Law Association. Karen has been elected a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers in 2020. Karen has also been appointed by the Chief Justice to sit on the Family Proceedings Court Users Committee in January 2021.

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 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*

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

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member of the Family Proceedings Court Users Committee
Member of the Family Law Committee, The Law Society of Hong Kong
Fellow, International Academy of Family Lawyers
Member of Committee, Hong Kong Family Law Association
Member, Hong Kong Collaborative Practice Group
Member, LAWASIA



Eviana Leung

Partner

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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, liquidators, start-up companies, Chinese insurers to high net worth individuals. She focuses on the firm's China practice and mainly advises on liquidation, re-structuring, listed company internal investigation, shareholders disputes, trade conflicts, recovery of high value debts, arbitration, injunction and other procedural matters.

Eviana started off as a litigator handling company and commercial disputes and private clients matters. Her practice then expanded to include international trade and marine cases. Prior to joining Howse Williams Bowers, 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, company liquidation and individual bankruptcy, corporate re-structuring and scheme of arrangement, company matters, shareholders disputes, breach of directors' duties, corporate internal and forensic investigation, marine cases, insurance, regulatory and enforcement prosecutions.

Eviana speaks fluent Mandarin, Cantonese and English.

▼ Experience

2019 Howse Williams (Partner), Maritime & Commercial Litigation
2018 Howse Williams Bowers (Partner), Maritime & Commercial Litigation
2015 Howse Williams Bowers (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 Admissions / Qualifications

2013 Accredited Mediator on the HKMAAL general panel

2011 Accredited Mediator on the HKIAC general panel

2008 Solicitor of HKSAR

▼ Professional Affiliations

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

▼ *Public Office*

Apr 2019 - Present Building Committee of the Hong Kong Housing Authority (Member)

Jun 2019 - Present The Road Safety Council (Member)

Jul 2019 - Present New Territories Regional Mainland Affairs Committee of Scott Association of Hong Kong (Member)

Oct 2019 - Present Immigration Tribunal (Adjudicator)

Dec 2019 - Present The Unsolicited Electronic Messages (Enforcement Notices) Appeal Board (Member)

Jan 2020 - Dec 2021 The Liquor Licensing Board (Member)

Jul 2020 - Present The Leveraged Foreign Exchange Trading Arbitration Panel (Member)

Oct 2020 - Present The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel (Practising Solicitor Member)

Mar 2021 - Present Ethics Committee (Member) of Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (Member)



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 clients include airlines, education providers, insurers and financial services providers.

Patricia's 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 Patricia's 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 and 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 is consistently ranked in Legal Directories. Examples of recent client comments:

2021 Chambers and Partners: *"a very dedicated, client-centric and commercial partner, who manages to be detail-oriented and technical, while giving clear and succinct advice."*

2021 Chambers and Partners client testimonial: *"The advice we received was excellent. It was well constructed, thorough, easy to follow, and received in a timely manner."*

2021 Legal 500: *"Very sensible team head Patricia Yeung is at the heart of many of the firm's financial services-related mandates, and as well as advising on employment litigation in the sector, also frequently negotiates exit packages in relation to high-level employees of banks, brokerages, and insurance companies."*

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

Patricia is the author of the 'Hong Kong Employment Ordinance - An Annotated Guide', which is published by Lexis Nexis. She also teaches on the PCLL Employment Law and Practice course at the University of Hong Kong.

▼ *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

Partner

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Stephen Leung is experienced in a broad range of corporate transactions including initial public offering (IPO), mergers and acquisitions (M&A) for private and public companies and Hong Kong capital markets transactions. In addition, he has also advised various Hong Kong listed companies on corporate governance and legal and regulatory compliance matters. He is qualified as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 2009.

He was involved in various legal due diligences and drafting and negotiating sale and purchase or subscription of shares and convertible bonds for both private and public companies, involving companies such as media and advertising company, property developer, formula racing company, football agency, health care company, construction company, IT and software company, etc.

▼ 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 Admissions / Qualifications

2009 Hong Kong

▼ Professional Affiliations

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong

▼ Reported Cases/Deal List

Recent IPOs

- acted on behalf of sponsor for the listing of Dashan Education Holdings Limited (stock code: 9986) on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of share offer in 2020. The Company was a leading after-school education service provider in Henan. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$204 million.

- acted on behalf of Xingye Wulian Service Group Co. Ltd. (stock code: 9916) for its listing on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2020. The Company was a reputable property management service provider in Henan. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$168 million.
- acted on behalf of Shanghai Realway Capital Assets Management Co., Ltd. (stock code: 1835) for its listing on 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. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$143 million.
- acted on behalf of sponsor for the listing of Gemilang International Limited (stock code: 6163) on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2016. The Company designed and manufactured bus bodies and assembled buses in Singapore and Malaysia. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$68 million.
- acted on behalf of China Rongzhong Financial Holdings Company Limited (stock code: 3963) for its listing on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2016. The Company was a finance leasing company serving small and medium-sized enterprises. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$171 million.

Other IPOs

- acted on behalf of Dining Concepts Holdings Limited (stock code: 8056) for its listing on GEM board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of placing in 2016. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$27 million.
- acted on behalf of sponsor for the listing of SFK Construction Holdings Limited (stock code: 1447) on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2015. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$105 million.
- acted on behalf of sponsor for the listing of Guru Online (Holdings) Limited (stock code: 8121) on GEM board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of placing in 2015. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$92 million.
- acted on behalf of sponsor for the listing of Chun Sing Engineering Holdings Limited (stock code: 2277) on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of public offer and placing in 2014. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$66 million.
- acted on behalf of China Success Finance Group Holdings Limited (stock code: 3623) for its listing on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2013. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$216 million.

- acted on behalf of sponsor for the listing of S. Culture International Holdings Limited (stock code: 1255) on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2013. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$90 million.
- acted on behalf of Oi Wah Pawnshop Credit Holdings Limited (stock code: 1319) for its listing on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of share offer in 2013. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$75 million.
- acted on behalf of Tibet 5100 Water Resources Holdings Ltd. (stock code: 1115) for its listing on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of global offering in 2011. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$1,272 million.
- acted on behalf of Hing Lee (HK) Holdings Limited (stock code: 396) for its listing on main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by way of placing and public offer in 2009. The net proceeds amounted in approximately HK\$36 million.

M&A

- represented Plan B Media Public Company Limited in the legal due diligence and subscription of 20% of shareholding in Master Ad Public Company Limited, a listed company on The Stock Exchange of Thailand, for a consideration of 1.55 billion baht.



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*

2010 Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Veronica Chow

Partner

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Veronica is one of the partners of HW. She focuses her practice on initial public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings and general corporate and commercial matters. She has extensive experience in advising issuers, sponsors and underwriters on listings on the Main Board and GEM in Hong Kong and regularly advises listed issuers and investors on general offers, fund raising activities, compliance matters and a broad range of other corporate transactions.

Over the years, Veronica has advised enterprises based in Asia Pacific and investment banks on projects relating to a wide range of businesses such as engineering; construction; property development; property agency; property management; sale of hardware and light machinery; human resources services; digital marketing; software development and sale; operation of elderly care homes; mining; TV series production; book publication and retail; pharmaceuticals; apparel design, production and retail; rubber production and export; and production and sale of children healthcare products, automotive safety products, water-saving irrigation systems, electrical appliances, polyester filament yarns and flooring materials.

IPOs successfully completed by Veronica include the following:

- Representing the sponsor and underwriters in the Main Board listing of **Xingye Wulian Service Group Co. Ltd.** (Stock code: 9916). Xingye Wulian is a reputable property management service provider in Henan Province, PRC with a particular focus on offering property management and value-added services for non-residential properties
- Representing the issuer in the Main Board listing of **CTR Holdings Limited** (Stock code: 1416). CTR is a Singapore-based contractor specialising in structural engineering works and wet architectural works
- Representing the issuer in the GEM listing of **Novacon Technology Group Limited** (Stock code: 8635). Novacon Technology is a Hong Kong-based financial trading solution provider principally engaged in the development and provision of financial trading solutions
- Representing the issuer in the GEM listing of **Hing Ming Holdings Limited** (Stock code: 8425). Hing Ming is principally engaged in the provision of rental services of temporary suspended working platforms and other equipment, and trading of equipment and spare parts in Hong Kong

- Representing the issuer in the Main Board listing of **Pine Care Group Limited** (Stock code: 1989). Pine Care is an operator of care and attention homes for the elderly in Hong Kong
- Representing the sponsor and underwriters in the Main Board listing of **Wang On Properties Limited** (Stock code: 1243). Wang On is a property developer and owner in Hong Kong
- Representing the sponsor and underwriters in the GEM listing of **Ahsay Backup Software Development Company Limited** (Stock code: 8290). Ahsay is based in Hong Kong and is principally engaged in the development of online backup software
- Representing the sponsor and underwriters in the GEM listing of **Guru Online (Holdings) Limited** (Stock code: 8121). Guru Online is based in Hong Kong and is principally engaged in the provision of digital marketing services
- Representing the issuer in the Main Board listing of **Prince Frog International Holdings Limited** (Stock code: 1259). Prince Frog is principally engaged in the design and provision of children care products
- Representing the issuer in the Main Board listing of **Billion Industrial Holdings Limited** (Stock code: 2299). Billion is principally engaged in the development and manufacturing of polyester filament yarns
- Representing the sponsor and underwriters in the Main Board listing of **CVM Minerals Limited** (Stock code: 705). CVM is based in Malaysia and is principally engaged in the production of magnesium
- Representing the issuer in the Main Board H-share listing of **Sichuan Xinhua Winshare Chainstore Co., Ltd.** (Stock code: 811). Sichuan Winshare is based in Sichuan Province, PRC and is principally engaged in the operation of retail outlets for books and audio-visual products; distribution of textbooks and supplementary materials; and provision of ancillary support and services to publishers of books
- Representing the sponsor and underwriters in the Main Board listing of **AUPU Group Holding Company Limited** (Stock code: 477). AUPU is based in Zhejiang Province, PRC and is principally engaged in the manufacturing of bathroom masters
- Representing the sponsor and underwriters in the GEM H-share listing of **Xinjiang Tianye Water Saving Irrigation System Company Limited** (Stock code: 8280). Xinjiang Tianye is based in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, PRC and is principally engaged in the provision of water-saving irrigation systems
- Representing the issuer in the Main Board listing of **Lijun International Pharmaceutical (Holding) Co., Ltd.** (Stock code: 2005). Lijun is based in Shaanxi Province, PRC and is principally engaged in the research, development, manufacture and sale of pharmaceutical

- Representing the issuer in the GEM listing of **JinHeng Automotive Safety Technology Holdings Limited** (Stock code: 8293). JinHeng is based in Liaoning Province, PRC and is principally engaged in the design, research and development, manufacturing and sale of automotive safety systems

Veronica was also involved in the following mergers and acquisitions recently:

- Acting as the Hong Kong legal advisers to the offeror in the mandatory unconditional cash offer to acquire all of the issued shares of Global Mastermind Capital Limited (Stock Code: 905) in 2021
- Acting as the Hong Kong legal advisers to the offeror in the mandatory unconditional cash offer to acquire all of the issued shares of Pak Wing Group (Holdings) Limited (currently known as Quantong Holdings Limited) (Stock Code: 8316)
- Acting as the Hong Kong legal advisers to the offeror in the mandatory unconditional cash offer to acquire all of the issued shares of and to cancel all outstanding options of Global Mastermind Capital Limited (Stock Code: 905) in 2020
- Acting as the Hong Kong legal advisers to The Grande Holdings Limited (currently known as Nimble Holdings Company Limited) (Stock Code: 186) in the mandatory unconditional cash offer to acquire all of the issued shares of The Grande Holdings Limited

▼ *Experience*

2021 Howse Williams
 2015 ONC Lawyers, Hong Kong
 2013 Pang & Co. in association with Loeb & Loeb LLP, Hong Kong
 2010 Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, Hong Kong
 2005 Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Hong Kong

▼ *Education*

PCLL University of Hong Kong
 LLM The University of Sheffield, UK
 LLB (Hons) The University of Sheffield, UK

▼ *Professional Admissions / Qualifications*

2019 Civil Celebrant of Marriages, Hong Kong
 2004 Solicitor, Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Desmond Lee

Partner

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Desmond is one of our partners specialising in contentious regulatory and compliance matters as well as complex cross-border commercial and shareholders' disputes. Desmond regularly advises and represents financial institutions, multinational corporations, state-owned enterprises, start-ups and private clients.

In particular, Desmond is experienced in representing clients on complex investigations by law enforcement agencies and market regulators in Hong Kong and abroad, such as the SFC and ICAC. He also represents clients across a range of commercial litigations in court and arbitration including cross-border commercial / trade disputes, corporate restructuring/insolvency, debt and asset recovery, disputes relating to financial products, investors/shareholders' disputes, and fraud/white-collar crimes,

Desmond is well regarded in Hong Kong and is tri-qualified in Hong Kong, England & Wales and Victoria, Australia. He is proficient in English, Cantonese and Mandarin.

▼ *Experience*

2021 Howse Williams
2016 Dentons Hong Kong
2007 Allen & Overy, Hong Kong

▼ *Education*

2007 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL), The University of Hong Kong,
2006 Postgraduate Diplomas in Legal Practice (Merit), Monash University,
Melbourne
2005 LLB (2:1 Hons), Monash University, Melbourne
1998 Bachelor of Business Systems, Monash University, Melbourne

▼ *Professional Admissions / Qualifications*

2019 Civil Celebrant of Marriages, Hong Kong
2011 Solicitor, England & Wales
2009 Solicitor, Hong Kong
2006 Lawyer, Australia (Victoria)

▼ *Professional Affiliations*

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



Carmen Fung

Partner

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Carmen specialises in medicolegal work. Carmen provides advice and assistance to doctors, dentists, other healthcare professionals and hospitals concerning clinical negligence claims and complaints, and disciplinary proceedings. Carmen is fluent in English, Cantonese and Mandarin.

▼ Experience

2014 Howse Williams
2008 Winnie Mak, Chan & Yeung, Solicitors
2005 Liu, Chan and Lam, Solicitors

▼ Education

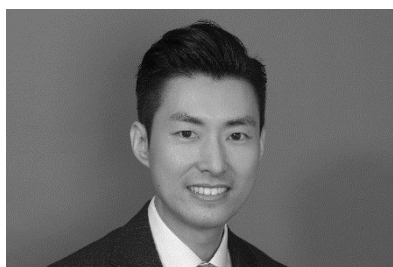
2005 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, The University of Hong Kong
2004 Bachelor of Laws, The University of Hong Kong

▼ Professional Admissions / Qualifications

2007 Hong Kong

▼ Professional Affiliations

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



Anthony Chan

Partner

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Anthony has extensive experience in a wide range of corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, public takeovers, corporate restructuring, corporate finance and post-listing regulatory compliance. Anthony regularly advises private equity firms, private and public corporations on complex cross-border acquisitions and disposals, joint ventures and other corporate transactions throughout Asia.

Prior to joining the firm, Anthony has worked in Hong Kong and London for other leading international law firms.

Anthony holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) designation.

▼ *Experience*

2021 Howse Williams
International law firms in London and Hong Kong

▼ *Education*

2009 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, Chinese University of Hong Kong
2008 Bachelor of Laws, London School of Economics
2003 Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting & Finance), University of Hong Kong

▼ *Professional Affiliations and Memberships*

2011 Hong Kong

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong
Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)
Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA)



Gary Chow

Partner

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Gary was admitted in Hong Kong in 2008 and specialises in personal injury and insurance related litigation. He is a highly experienced practitioner with strong technical competence.

Gary regularly acts for liability insurers. He has extensive experience in defending personal injury claims involving work accidents, traffic accidents, occupiers' liability and medical malpractice. He advises insurers on a multitude of complex policy issues.

Gary also acts for professional indemnity insurers as coverage and defence counsel with claims involving educational institutions and healthcare professionals.

Gary has experience in advising on regulatory and compliance matters, contractual disputes, debt recovery, employment related matters, data privacy matters, arbitration and criminal matters.

▼ Experience highlights:

- Advising insurers on policy coverage and exclusion, policy interpretation, double insurance, seeking contribution from co-insurers, repudiation of policy liability, recovery against insured, under-insurance, insurable interest, subrogation, liability under compulsory insurance legislation, etc.
- Handling subrogation (recovery) claims against third party wrongdoers
- Handling, investigating, defending and settling personal injury claims of various scale from very minor injury to paraplegic / tetraplegic / fatal claims (concluded by negotiation, mediation or trial)
- Handling claims for contribution / indemnity against co-defendants
- Handling, investigating and defending highly suspicious personal injury claims and succeeding in getting the claimants to withdraw or discontinue their claims, or settle at low level and early stage
- Acting for construction site contractors, logistics companies, cleaning companies, security companies, property management companies, restaurants, retail shops, elderly homes, offices, SMEs, etc. in handling work accident claims and recovery claims under Section 25 of the Employees' Compensation Ordinance against third party wrongdoers
- Advising and handling industrial summons, claims for non-payment of periodical payment and complaints to the Labour Department against employers
- Advising motor insurers and the Motor Insurer' Bureau of Hong Kong on liability under the Domestic Agreement and the compulsory insurance legislation, and defending traffic accident bodily injury claims
- Acting for property management, security and cleaning companies on accidents at residential estates, commercial buildings and shopping malls, and advising on the related contribution / indemnity claims between the property management, security

and cleaning companies under their respective public liability policies and service contracts

- Advising on water seepage claims in residential, commercial and hotel buildings
- Acting for physiotherapists, chiropractors, Chinese medicine practitioners and optometrists in malpractice claims involving alleged negligent treatment
- Acting for special schools and elderly homes in personal injury claims involving alleged negligent care
- Acting for educational institutions and their management committees in defending a wide variety of claims relating to employment related matters (e.g. dismissal, suspension of employment, disciplinary procedure, variation of employment terms, reduction of wages, misrepresentation, etc.), discrimination, alleged wrongful or negligent student care, guidance or discipline, breach of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, etc.
- Handling a telephone enquiry hotline for answering enquiries from insured relating to policy coverage and claim notification issues
- Advising a property all risk and business interruption insurer on policy liability, subrogation issue, legal liability and quantum of loss arising out of a major roof collapse incident in Hong Kong
- Advising insurers on business interruption claims and policy coverage issues arising out of COVID-19
- Advising on debt recovery claims and related enforcement action and bankruptcy / winding up proceedings
- Advising insurers on complaints filed by insured with the Insurance Authority

▼ Experience

2022 Howse Williams
2013 Clyde & Co
2009 Leung & Lau
2008 YC Lee, Pang & Kwok

▼ Education

2006 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, The University of Hong Kong
2005 Bachelor of Laws, The University of Hong Kong

▼ Professional Admissions / Qualifications

2008 Hong Kong

▼ Professional Affiliations

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong



William Wong

Partner

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William specialises in contentious regulatory work and financial services and commercial litigation. He represents both institutional and individual clients in investigations by regulatory authorities and law enforcement agencies in Hong Kong (e.g., HKMA, SFC, CCB, ICAC, IA, Competition Commission and Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data), on matters including market misconduct, money-laundering, bribery and corruption, mis-selling, internal controls failure, and whistleblowing of employee misconduct.

Benefiting from his in-house experience, he is frequently called upon to provide counsel on a broad range of regulatory compliance issues concerning financial institutions and listed companies, including emerging trends such as the use of Tech and virtual assets.

William has been ranked by Who's Who Legal as a Futures Leader in Investigations and by Legal 500 a "Next Generation Lawyer" for Dispute Resolution in Hong Kong.

William was one of the authors of the Hong Kong chapter of The Practitioner's Guide to Global Investigation (3rd-6th editions) and Lissack and Horlick on Bribery and Corruption (3rd edition). He is a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS).

▼ Experience

2022 Howse Williams
2014 Clifford Chance
2011 Credit Suisse
2010 Merrill Lynch
2005 Simmons & Simmons

▼ Education

2005 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, University of Hong Kong
2004 Bachelor of Laws, University of Hong Kong

▼ Professional Admissions / Qualifications

2018 England and Wales
2017 Hong Kong

▼ Professional Affiliations

Member, Law Society of Hong Kong
Member, OLQE Eligibility and Exemption committee, Law Society of Hong Kong
Member, Investment Products and Financial Services Committee, Law Society of Hong Kong (2020-2021)
Member, Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel, HKSAR Government
Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS)



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