Howse Williams

Family and Matrimonial Practice

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Howse Williams is a leading, full service, Hong Kong law firm. We combine the in-depth experience of our lawyers with a 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; trusts and wealth preservation; wills, probate and estate administration; property and building management; banking; fraud; distressed debt; investment funds; virtual assets; 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.

Our Approach

We provide a personal, practical and cost-oriented approach to clients who are often undergoing a very stressful and difficult period in their lives. We work closely with other professionals in the field of family disputes, particularly mediators, to provide the best solution for our clients. We fully support mediation as an alternative method of resolving family disputes. We are accessible, respond immediately when emergencies arise and provide our services efficiently and effectively. Our clients' privacy and the confidentiality of their personal arrangements are treated with the utmost importance. We ensure that our clients have a realistic idea of what to expect from our services. 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 often involve children. We provide practical solutions and protect our clients' interests.

Our Family and Matrimonial Practice

Our clients include professionals, entrepreneurs, owners of family businesses, celebrities, and high net worth individuals, often with assets in multiple jurisdictions around the world. Our team have experience of contested multi-jurisdictional cases in the USA, France, Switzerland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, the UK, and mainland China and have been involved in cases relating to the Hague Convention on the Abduction of Children involving children wrongfully removed from, or wrongfully brought to Hong Kong. In addition we provide advice upon the following:

- Relationship breakdown, divorce and separation, including financial applications and arrangements for children.
- Disputes involving the custody, care and control of children, including access and child maintenance.
- Issues involving children such as paternity, schooling and name change applications both in respect of married and unmarried couples and cohabitants.
- Abduction or return of children to or from Hague Convention and non-Hague Convention countries.
- Family financial issues such as maintenance claims and capital claims, including property transfers.
- Emergency injunction applications (e.g. to prevent the disposal of assets or their removal abroad and to protect the victims of abuse and domestic violence).
- Applications for private adoptions.
- Pre-nuptial agreements, post-nuptial agreements and separation deeds.
- Reputation management and media issues.

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP)

Our team also provide advice on a wide range of inheritance and succession matters including:

- Trusts, in particular setting up family trusts, educational trusts and charitable trusts
- Drafting of wills, probate and enduring powers of attorney
- Providing for an individual following their partner's death, while protecting the interests of their children
- Ensuring elderly or vulnerable relatives are cared for and supported
- Protecting the interests of co-habiting couples
- Helping clients to support charitable causes in an effective way

HW Partner Victoria Ng So is a Registered Trusts and Estates practitioner. STEP is a worldwide professional association with over 20,000 members across 95 countries. STEP holds its members to the highest ethical and professional standards.

Victoria Ng So TEP

Partner

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Victoria was admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 2013.

Victoria's practice focuses on matrimonial and trust matters. Her cases always involve international elements including relocations and substantial overseas assets, including those held in overseas trust. Victoria advises clients on issues when new marital relationships are to be formed or when relationships break down, drafts and negotiates pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements, separation deeds, and divorce settlements.

Victoria advises on children matters such as custody, care and control, access arrangement disputes with respect to children born to married and unmarried couples and cohabitants. She also advises on a wide range of inheritance and succession matters.

Victoria is a Registered Trusts & Estates Practitioner with STEP (the Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners) and sits on STEP HK Marketing & Communications Sub-committee. Victoria has been awarded the STEP Diploma in International Trust Management with distinction. She advises on trusts and the duties of trustees as well as beneficiaries' rights to information on trusts.

Victoria is a part-time lecturer at the University of Hong Kong for the Matrimonial Practice and Procedure module in Postgraduate Certificate in Laws. She is also an Executive Committee Member of the Hong Kong Family Law Association and sits on LawAsia Family Law & Family Rights Committee. She is fluent in English, Cantonese and Putonghua.

Experience

2014 Howse Williams
2011 Ip & Heathfield

Education

2017 Diploma in International Trust Management (Distinction), STEP
2011 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL), The University of Hong Kong
2010 Master of Laws in Chinese Law (LLM), Peking University, Beijing
2008 Bachelor of Laws (LLB), King's College London, UK

Professional Admissions / Qualifications

2021 Civil Celebrant of Marriages
2019 Registered Trust & Estate Practitioner, STEP
2013 Solicitor of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Professional Affiliations

Executive Committee Member, Hong Kong Family Law Association
Committee Member, LawAsia Family Law & Family Rights Committee
Committee Member, STEP HK Marketing & Communications Sub-committee
Member, The Law Society of Hong Kong

Our Team

Veronica Lee

Senior Associate

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Veronica was admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong in 2018. Her practice focuses on family and matrimonial disputes relating to divorce and separation, ancillary relief applications, and children matters such as custody, care and control and access arrangements, both with respect to children born to married and unmarried couples. In addition to divorce proceedings, Veronica has experience in preparing and reviewing and advising pre- and post-nuptial agreements.

Veronica speaks fluent English, Cantonese and Putonghua.

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