

# Grace Lee

## Associate



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Hong Kong

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## Overview

Grace is an associate in Dentons' Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group based in Hong Kong.

She has experience in advising and representing international and Chinese clients in a broad range of civil matters, including shareholder and boardroom disputes, fraud and asset recovery, breach of contract claims, professional negligence claims, breach of confidence claims and data privacy complaints, regulatory investigations, corporate insolvency and bankruptcy matters, Mareva/freezing injunctions and in particular, disputes with a cross-border element.

Grace also has experience in handling arbitration proceedings.

## Experience

### Cross Border Litigation

- **An internet entrepreneur and Hong Kong technology company:** Advised on restraint order proceedings instigated in Hong Kong by the United States Government to restrain assets up to US\$175 million.
- **A mining consultancy based in Spain:** Advised on proceedings to recover over US\$26 million consultancy fees brought against a Hong Kong based business partner for damages arising out of breaches of a consultancy agreement relating to the financing and construction of a coal power plant in the Republic of Niger.
- **Various international corporations based in the United States Spain, France and the Netherlands respectively:** Acted for various foreign victims of wire frauds to recover the stolen funds. One of the actions involves twenty-one defendants and three rounds of injunction applications, and another involves restoring dissolved Hong Kong companies to the Companies Register before commencing civil action.

### Financial Products and Services

- **A European bank:** Advised in relation to the unauthorised copying and removal of confidential proprietary

and client information by a senior employee. Our role in assisting the bank with its internal investigation included liaising with the SFC and advising on the data privacy implications of the employee's conduct, and subsequent proceedings against the employee.

- **A Hong Kong bank:** Advised in relation to a threatened wrongful termination of a software licensing agreement by a technology company and a potential claim for damages. Our role included recommending strategies in the bank's negotiation with the technology company.
- **A SFC-licensed asset management company:** Advised on various employment and shareholder disputes with the company's former employees, shareholders, directors and a potential shareholder, and the implications of the SFC Code of Conduct on various conduct issues involved.
- **A portfolio manager of a SFC-licensed asset management company:** Advised on proceedings in relation to breach of confidence disputes involving unauthorised disclosure of sensitive business information and privileged legal advice.

## Shareholder/Boardroom

- **A European automobile company:** Advised in a shareholder dispute over a Hong Kong joint venture established to manage an automobile business. We acted for the client to contest proceedings in relation to an alleged sale and purchase of shares and advised on commencing a statutory derivative action in relation to a director's misappropriation of company funds and assets, removing the director and bringing a claim to recover outstanding contractual project payments.

## Regulatory

- **Executive of a listed company:** Advised a senior executive of a listed company in an SFC investigation into alleged violations of the SFO concerning transactions of listed shares in Hong Kong.

## Insolvency and Bankruptcy

- **A cash technology solutions company:** Commenced a winding up proceeding on behalf of a cash technology solutions company to recover unpaid invoiced sums arising out of a technology distribution agreement.
- **A Dutch technology company:** Advised in relation to a claim of outstanding licence fees under a distribution agreement against a Hong Kong company in voluntary liquidation.
- **A private client:** Acted for a private client to recover a debt owed by an individual in the bankruptcy court, including contesting an application to set aside a statutory demand and issuing a bankruptcy petition.

## Professional

- **Hong Kong firms of solicitors:** Acted for various firms of solicitors in defending professional negligence claims in respect of areas of practice such as conveyancing and litigation.
- **A professional indemnity insurer:** Advised in respect of claims for indemnity under a professional indemnity scheme.

## Insights

- "Hong Kong court rules in favour of bank in mis-selling claim brought by experienced investor"
- "SFC obtained statutory relief for investors in relation to a listed company's misconduct"
- "New requirement for Hong Kong companies to maintain a significant controllers register"

- “Recent case on winding up foreign companies in Hong Kong”

## Activities and Affiliations

### Presentations

Grace has spoken on dispute resolution topics such as effective pre-dispute management.

### Prior and Present Employment

- Associate, Dentons Hong Kong LLP, 2018 – present
- Associate, Bird & Bird, Hong Kong, 2017– 2018
- Trainee Solicitor, Bird & Bird, Hong Kong, 2015 – 2017

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution

## Education

- University of Hong Kong, 2014, Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL)
- University of Hong Kong, 2014, LLB
- University of Hong Kong, 2012, Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws)

## Admissions and qualifications

- Hong Kong, 2017

## Languages

- Cantonese
- English
- Mandarin