

Henry Li

Associate



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Hong Kong

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Overview

Henry Li is an associate in Dentons' Litigation & Dispute Resolution group based in Hong Kong. He has experience in representing local and multinational clients in Hong Kong litigation and arbitration proceedings. His practice focuses on civil and commercial disputes with an emphasis on company and insolvency litigation.

Experience

- **A well-known multinational American-style fashion company:** acting for the company in legal proceedings commenced in the High Court against its former landlord for recovery of rental deposit of over HK\$40 million which was due to be returned after early determination of a lease for a four-storey flagship store in Central. The landlord counterclaimed for costs of conducting reinstatement works to restore the premises to the original layout as well as damages for loss of rental income. Issues in dispute include meaning of “bare shell” condition, and validity of the landlord’s notice to reinstate.
- **A Chinese state-owned enterprise:** representing the SOE and two of its general managers/directors in defending a High Court proceedings brought by a former chairman of a Hong Kong listed company, who alleged, among other things, that the defendants had conspired to deprive him of his 54.8% interests in the listed company at the time when he was held in custody in the PRC between 2005 and 2012. Various allegations of use of fraudulent schemes, forged documents and false representations were raised and pleaded.
- **Liquidators of a Hong Kong recruitment agency:** acting for a Hong Kong company, which is being wound up and previously a recruitment agency, under instructions of its liquidators in pursuing High Court action against its former directors and their corporate vehicles on grounds of breach of trust and diversion of company’s business, revenue and funds that were either unaccounted for or used to acquire landed properties. Amount claimed exceeded HK\$40 million.
- **Liquidators of a BVI holding company of a large group of ship owning companies:** advising and acting for the liquidators in pursuit of legal actions against the BVI company’s Hong Kong subsidiary and its directors / other shareholders for recovery of valuable assets that have been disposed of for no consideration or at a significant undervalue (including the subsidiary’s dry bulk trading / chartering businesses and two

operating vessels). Petitioned for winding-up against the Hong Kong subsidiary on insolvency and just and equitable grounds, whilst seeking unfair prejudice remedies in the alternative.

- **A Switzerland-based energy storage batteries developer:** acting for the parent company of a Switzerland-based conglomerate in the technology sector in a HKIAC arbitration commenced for pursuing claims against a Chinese state-owned enterprise for breaches of Swiss-law governed share purchase agreements. The Chinese SOE raised jurisdictional challenge and defences regarding the validity of the share purchase agreements, including that (1) the arbitration agreements were entered into by means of coercion, fraud, conspiracy to defraud; (2) the underlying contracts were not approved by the board of the Respondent / the relevant Chinese authorities; and (3) performance of the arbitration agreements would be contrary to the social and public interests of the PRC. Expert legal advice of multiple jurisdictions including Switzerland and Mainland China is required to address legal issues in connection with the Respondent's contentions.
- **A Hong Kong properties sales agent:** defending a Hong Kong company and its shareholders and directors in High Court proceedings brought by a listed real estate conglomerate for alleged breaches of share charges. Advanced counterclaims on grounds of breaches of shareholders' agreements regarding distribution of profits of a large scaled residential development project in Guangzhou, PRC. Amount in dispute exceeded HK\$800 million.

Insights

- "Hong Kong Court approves first application by Mainland administrators for recognition in Hong Kong," Dentons Hong Kong Insights, January 17, 2020
- "Watch out for the Statutory Limitation Period in Hong Kong for Enforcement of PRC Arbitral Award," Dentons Hong Kong Insights, November 8, 2019

Activities and Affiliations

Memberships

- The Law Society of Hong Kong

Prior and Present Employment

- Trainee Solicitor/Associate, Zhong Lun Law Firm, Hong Kong, September 2015–July 2018

Areas of focus

Practices

- Commercial Litigation

Education

- University of Hong Kong, 2015, PCLL
- University of Hong Kong, 2014, LLB
- University of Hong Kong, 2012, BBA (Law)

Admissions and qualifications

- Hong Kong, 2017

Languages

- Cantonese
- English
- Mandarin