

Jenny Zhuang

Of Counsel



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Hong Kong

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Overview

Jenny is Of Counsel in Dentons' Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group based in Hong Kong.

Jenny has over 12 years of litigation experience in Hong Kong. Her practice focuses on disputes in the Financial Services, Insurance, Technology and Communications sectors.

Jenny has advised and acted for both plaintiffs and defendants on a wide range of commercial disputes, such as shareholders' disputes, professional indemnity and insurance matters, mis-selling claims, corporate insolvency, employment disputes, fraud, corruption, asset tracing and recovery, defamation claims, data privacy disputes, and disputes involving trade secrets or other confidential information.

Jenny regularly advises and represents clients in relation to investigations by regulatory authorities, such as the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong (SFC), the Independent Commission Against Corruption of Hong Kong (ICAC), the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the Hong Kong Confederation of Insurance Brokers (HKCIB).

Jenny's experience in the employment area includes both contentious and non-contentious matters. She has advised on team moves, restrictive covenants, discrimination claims and post-termination suits, and regularly represent clients in Labour Tribunal and High Court actions. She is a contributor to the *Hong Kong Employment Law – a Practical Guide*, 5th Edition.

Jenny qualified as a solicitor and barrister in New Zealand in 2005, in Hong Kong in 2008, and in England and Wales in 2009. She trained as a banking and finance lawyer at Linklaters and then spent nearly six years at Kennedys, specialising in insurance and litigation, then another four years at Bird & Bird as a commercial litigator, before joining Dentons in December 2018.

Jenny is also a civil celebrant of marriages in Hong Kong.

Experience

Cross-border litigation

- **A private equity fund:** Advising in a shareholder dispute over a joint venture established to manage an aluminium bauxite mining business. The fund is seeking to remove two directors appointed by recalcitrant shareholders, contesting proceedings to wind-up the JV and bringing a claim for damages for breach of the management agreement.
- **A Hong Kong-based mining group:** Advising group with major iron ore mining assets based in Mongolia in relation to a US\$400 million dispute with a Mainland investor, including contesting applications for summary judgment and winding-up in Hong Kong.
- **A large PRC technology company:** Advising one of PRC's largest technology companies in a substantial claim for patent infringement brought by another large PRC tech company, with cross invalidation claims on the patent.
- **An Internet entrepreneur and Hong Kong technology company:** Advising on restraint order proceedings initiated in Hong Kong by the US government to restrain assets of up to US\$175 million.
- **A well-known UK based wine company:** Advising the company in a shareholder dispute with its former local distributor involving injunction orders to prevent the disclosure and use of confidential customer information.
- **The owners of the vessel Decurion:** Acting for an Argentinian-based shipping giant in nine separate Hong Kong High Court actions involving the arrest and sale of its vessel, including an appeal to the Court of Appeal on the interpretation of section 12(b)(4) of the High Court Ordinance and the meaning of "control." This was a landmark case and the first in the common law world to interpret the meaning of "control" in the context of making ship arrests.
- **A large Spanish commodities company:** Advising a large engineering company headquartered in Spain who was the victim of e-mail cyber fraud resulting in a loss of more than €5 million, including applying for urgent Mareva injunctions, tracing assets, dealing with interlocutory applications and obtaining garnishee orders.

Insurance/professional indemnity

- **A professional indemnity insurer:** Advising insurer in respect of a claim by a US-based law firm seeking indemnity for a professional negligence claim brought against it by liquidators of a NASDAQ-listed Chinese company. The claim arose out of an internal FCPA investigation the law firm conducted on behalf of the company's internal audit committee. The liquidators value the claim against the firm in excess of US\$530 million.
- **A Hong Kong law firm:** Acting for the law firm on joint instructions with the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited to defend against a claim of professional negligence brought by former clients.
- **A Big Four accounting firm:** Advising the firm in respect of a section 221 application (request for examination of auditors' working papers), brought by the liquidators of a company that engaged the firm to audit its books.
- **An insurer of a Macau casino:** Advising the insurer in connection with a multi-million dollar claim by an insured for denial of coverage arising from a business interruption policy.
- **A loss adjuster company:** Advising the adjuster in a claim brought by a former client insurer for its alleged negligence in investigating a claim under a public liability policy.

Investigations

- **A major listed HK company:** Acting for the company's former projects director in a major SFC investigation concerning the delayed announcement of the opening of a major infrastructure project. The matter involved allegations against the company and various senior executives of publishing false and misleading information and failing to make timely disclosure of inside information.

- **A US Investment bank:** Advising and acting for a number of the bank's current and former senior bankers in relation to an ongoing investigation by the ICAC into the bank's hiring practices.
- **Senior officer of major Chinese technology company:** Advising the executive in parallel investigations by the SFC and the China Securities Regulatory Commissions (CSRC) into allegations of insider trading around the time of a major corporate acquisition.

Employment

- **A large Hong Kong-based airline:** Advising the airline in a disability discrimination brought by a former employee seeking substantial damages.
- **A large US-based recruitment firm:** Defending the firm in a High Court litigation (transferred from the Labour Tribunal) alleging wrongful termination, defamation and breach of contract. The action was brought by a candidate the firm had referred to one of its international clients.
- **A French financial services firm:** Advising the firm in respect of a claim brought by a former employee alleging unfair dismissal, unpaid wages and unpaid performance based bonuses.

Activities and Affiliations

Memberships

- Law Society of Auckland, New Zealand
- Law Society of England and Wales

Prior and Present Employment

- Of counsel, Dentons Hong Kong LLP, 2019 – present
- Senior Managing Associate, Bird & Bird, 2014 – 2018
- Associate, Kennedys, 2009 – 2014
- Trainee solicitor/associate, Linklaters (Banking & Finance Group), 2006 – 2009
- Winter Placement Clerk, Allen & Overy (Hong Kong), 2004

Areas of focus

Practices

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Litigation
- Financial Services Litigation
- Employment and Labor

Industry sectors

- Insurance

Education

- City University of Hong Kong, 2006, PCLL, (Pass with Distinction)
- University of Auckland, 2004, LLB, (First Class Honors)
- University of Auckland, 2002, BA

Admissions and qualifications

- England and Wales, 2009
- Hong Kong, 2008
- Barrister and solicitor, New Zealand, 2005

Languages

- English
- Mandarin