

Keith Brandt

Office Managing Partner



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Hong Kong

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Overview

Keith is the Managing Partner and head of Litigation and Dispute Resolution group of Dentons Hong Kong. He has more than 35 years' experience in heavyweight dispute resolution, including high court/commercial court litigation, domestic and international arbitration, expert determinations, alternative dispute resolution, and mediations with particular focus on the energy, construction and financial services sectors.

Keith has been widely recognised by various legal directories. *Chambers Asia-Pacific 2020* stated, Keith Brandt typically advises private equity houses, financial services firms and energy and construction companies on a range of commercial disputes. One of the sources mentioned, "He's very experienced, a great communicator and a very talented litigator."

Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2020 ranked Keith as a leading lawyer in Dispute Resolution: Litigation for Hong Kong. One of the clients stated, "Keith Brandt is senior, highly-respected and still hands-on. His determination to fulfil clients' wishes where at all possible is emphasised to counsel and properly tempered by a no-nonsense, practical approach. He understands and responds well to the special requirements of a client constituted by both mainland and international parties."

The firm which Keith managed has been named as Civil Litigation Law Firm of the Year by *The Macallan ALB Hong Kong Law Awards 2019*. *Global Law Experts 2020* awarded Keith, and the team he led, as Financial Services Sector Disputes Law Firm of the Year in Hong Kong. Keith was also named to the *Asian Legal Business'* lawyers "Hot 100" list which recognised Asia's leaders, movers & shakers.

Keith has a varied client base with an international background operating in a diversified number of jurisdictions, with particular experience in Asia Pacific including Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Middle East, including the Indian sub-continent.

Experience

- **European Banking institution:** Acting for the client in respect of US\$100m fraudulent scam and consequent worldwide mareva injunction order and disclosure order against third party banks from the High Court of Hong Kong on an urgent and ex parte basis within 24 hours, asset tracing and recovery actions in respect of

monies wrongfully appropriated.

- **Leading US wire and electricity and cable manufacturer:** Acting for client in successfully achieving a satisfactory and amicable settlement in an SIAC Arbitration brought by a Chinese copper company claiming over US\$ 9.6 million against our client and pursuing a counterclaim against the same Chinese party in the sum of over US\$ 5.4 million in connection with a dispute relating to the performance of a contract signed between them.
- **SOE and a PRC company:** Acting for client in successfully achieving a satisfactory and amicable settlement in an HKIAC Arbitration in connection with dispute relating to adjustment of price arising from certain quality of Indonesian unwashed coking coal supplied pursuant to contract entered into with a leading international coal supplier based in Singapore.
- **Confidential client:** Acting for client for Recovery of rough diamonds detained by HK and US customs.
- **PRC Power Fuel Company:** Acting for client in US\$50M dispute with US supplier in jurisdictional dispute in relation to multiple SIAC arbitrations.
- **Leading state owned enterprise:** Advising in respect to supply contracts including advising on preliminary measures and contemplated SIAC arbitration.
- **China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd:** Acting for client in relation to a number of international disputes including advising in connection with various ICC conciliation and arbitration proceedings.
- **Employer of North Asian LNG facility:** Acting for client in relation to multi million USD claims against professional Advisers.
- **Taiwanese Contractor:** Acting for client in relation to a dispute arising out of an accident on an LNG Facility on the Eastern Seaboard of the PRC.
- **IBM China/Hong Kong Limited:** Advising in relation to the enforcement of various restraint of trade provisions.
- **CGGCI:** Advising on a number of international projects.
- **Shandong Shanshui Cement Group Limited:** Advising in respect to its claims in relation to LCIA Arbitration.
- **Huawei Technologies:** Advising in various international arbitrations in the Russian C.I.S.
- **A number of beneficiaries:** Acting for client in a high profile Hong Kong High Court multibillion HKD litigation, arising out of one of the largest estate disputes in Hong Kong.
- **PRC, state owned and Asian public and private companies in various sectors:** Conducting various LCIA, ICC, HKIAC, CIETAC arbitrations for these companies.
- **The Malaysian Public Trustee:** Acting for client in relation to the administration asset determination and asset recovery of a multi jurisdictional multi-million Hong Kong dollar estate.
- **Conoco and PowerGen:** Acting for clients against Phillips Petroleum in the widely publicised dispute in relation to the challenge of an expert determination.
- **US company:** Acting for client in its agency/distributorship dispute in a CIETAC arbitration in Beijing.

Reported decisions include:

- *Wharf v. Eric Cumine*
- *Shun Fung Ironworks v. Hong Kong Government*
- BCCI

- *Conoco v. Phillips*
- *Merchant Navy Ratings Pension Fund v. Chambers and Others*
- The Estate of Cheung Kung Hai, deceased
- *IBM v. N. Knight*
- In the matter of Mandarin Capital Advisory Limited; *Alberto Forchielli v. D. Valentina*
- *Arima v. Flextronics Computing Sales and Marketing Ltd.* (First Instance and Court of Appeal)

Recognition

- *Chambers Asia Pacific*: Ranked in Dispute Resolution: Litigation - International Firms (China)
- *Chambers Global*: Ranked in Dispute Resolution: Litigation - International Firms (China)
- *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*: Ranked in Dispute Resolution: Litigation (Hong Kong)
- *Asian Legal Business*: Named as an "Expert" in the "Hot 100 Lawyers"

In the Media

- Quotes, "Hong Kong Lawyers Unsure of City's Future as Hostilities Between Beijing and Washington Escalate," *Law.com*, July 2020
- Quotes, "The Sun Will Rise Again," The Asia Legal Briefing, *Law.com*, June 2020
- Quotes, "Hong Kong Lawyers React as the US Strips Hong Kong of Special Trade Status," *Law.com*, June 2020
- Quotes, "China's Belt and Road Initiative faces major challenges," International Bar Association, April 2020
- Quotes, "China in their Hands," *The Lawyer*, October 2019
- Quotes, "China's courts for BRI disputes a 'logical step'," *The Straits Times*, 7 February 2018

Insights

- Co-author, "Implementation of the Interim Measures Arrangement between Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China", *Hong Kong Lawyer*, November 2020
- Contributing author, "Business Law Chapter," *Bullen Leake and Jacob Hong Kong Precedents of Pleadings (Second Edition)*, *Sweet & Maxwell*, November 2017
- Co-author, "China: International Arbitration Developments," *The International Arbitration Review (Sixth Edition)*, June 2015

Activities and Affiliations

Presentations

Keith is a regular public speaker. Most recent examples of his lectures and seminars include:

- Speaker, "Anatomy of a Greater Bay Area Dispute," Link to the Future: Dentons GBA Cross-border Legal Summit, Shenzhen, China, 23 November 2019

- Speaker, Dentons 2019 Global Financial Markets Regulatory and Disputes Forum, Singapore and Hong Kong, 8 and 11 October 2019
- Presenter and Panellist, Dentons Global Financial Markets Regulatory and Disputes Forum, Singapore and Hong Kong, 19 and 21 February 2019
- Speaker, "Belt and Road Initiative, Emphasized the Vision and Momentum of Belt-and-Road Potentials," Japan-China Friendship Center, 28 July 2018
- Speaker, CHINCA / Dentons Annual Conference: The 9th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF), Macau, 6 and 7 June 2018
- Speaker, "The Accelerator Effect - Looking at the expansion of Beijing Service Sector from the perspective of Professional Service Institutions," 21st Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium, 29 November 2017
- Speaker, "Comparing rules of major international arbitration institutions for China's outbound infrastructure investments," 2016 Infrastructure Outbound Investment Summit, 13 December 2016
- Speaker, "Foreign Investment Outbound One Belt - One Road" and "PPP, BOT and Other New Model Forms of Equity Investment and Procurement Middle East, Iran and North/ East Africa – Silk Road Opportunities," CHINCA / Dentons Annual Conference, Kunming, China, 7 December 2016
- Speaker, "A posse ad esse-The Role of Hong Kong and the legal Community in channelling OBOR initiatives from possibility to Actuality," China Eurasia Conference, Urumqi, Xinjiang, 21 September 2016
- Speaker, "Foreign Investment Outbound One Belt - One Road" and "PPP, BOT and Other New Model Forms of Equity Investment and Procurement Silk Road Opportunities," CHINCA / Dentons Annual Conference, Xiamen, China, 3 November 2015
- Speaker, "Leveraging Opportunities between China and the Middle East" and "Tips for Avoiding Disputes, and Dispute Resolution," CHINCA / Dentons Annual Conference, Dubai and Qatar, 9-11 March 2015
- Panel speaker, ABA Asia Pacific International Mediation Summit, New Delhi, India, 12-14 February 2015

Memberships

- Law Society of England & Wales
- Law Society of Hong Kong
- Various professional memberships including International Bar Association and ICC Hong Kong
- Appointed Convenor, Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, May 2020 - present
- Appointed Deputy Convenor, Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, June 2017 - May 2020
- Appointed Chairman, Appeals Tribunal, 2015 - present
- Appointed Chairman, Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunals, 2012, 2013 and 2016
- Appointed Secretary, ICC Hong Kong, 2014 - 2015
- Elected Executive Committee Member, ICC Hong Kong, 2013 - 2014
- Member, Hong Kong Law Society Claims Committee

Prior and Present Employment

- Chief Representative, Dentons Beijing Representative Office, to date

- Managing Partner, Dentons Hong Kong, 2011 - to date
- Chief Representative Hammonds Beijing Representative Office, 2004 - 2010
- Senior Partner, Hammonds Hong Kong, 2001 - 2010
- Partner, Hammonds, 1995 - 2010
- Lovell White Durrant, Hong Kong, Abu Dhabi and London, 1988 -1995
- Solicitor, Johnson Stokes and Master, Hong Kong, 1985 -1988
- Articled, Pritchard Englefield & Tobin, 1985

Areas of focus

Practices

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Arbitration
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction and Engineering Disputes
- Energy Litigation
- International Commercial Arbitration
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Mediation

Industry sectors

- Construction
- Industrial Equipment and Components
- Infrastructure and PPP
- Manufacturing
- Transport Infrastructure: Airports, Bridges, Ports, Rail, Roads

Issues and opportunities

- Smart Cities & Connected Communities Initiative and Think Tank

Education

- University of Warwick, BA (Hons) Law and Sociology, Class II Div. I

Admissions and qualifications

- Solicitor, Australia, 1990

- Solicitor, Hong Kong, 1985
- Solicitor, England and Wales, 1985
- Solicitor and Barrister, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, 1990

Languages

- English