

Robert Rhoda

Partner



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Hong Kong

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Overview

Robert is a partner in Dentons' Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group based in Hong Kong.

He specialises in international arbitration and cross border litigation, as well as various forms of alternative dispute resolution, with particular experience in the financial services, technology and energy sectors.

Robert has been involved in a wide range of corporate and commercial disputes, typically involving an international element, including contractual disputes, shareholder and joint venture disputes, private equity disputes and fraud.

As well as acting as counsel, Robert accepts arbitral appointments and is a member of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) List of Arbitrators.

Robert is ranked as a leading individual for Dispute Resolution: Arbitration in *Chambers Asia Pacific* 2019 and as a Recommended Lawyer for both Arbitration and Litigation by *Legal 500 Hong Kong* 2018.

Chambers Asia Pacific 2019 reports that Robert "receives considerable praise from both clients and peers, who consider him to be 'a very experienced and well regarded' lawyer in the arbitration area" and that "one interviewee further singles out that he is 'phenomenal in his ability to spot the issues and prepare a suitable strategy to resolve said issues in the most beneficial manner possible.'"

According to *Chambers Asia Pacific* 2018, "Robert has impressed with clear advice and by being robust and innovative on strategy."

Among various appointments, Robert is a Council member of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Co-Chair of the Inter Pacific Bar Association's (IPBA) Dispute Resolution & Arbitration Committee a member of the HKIAC's Belt and Road Advisory Committee.

Experience

International Arbitration

- **The subsidiary of a US-based global manufacturing and distribution company:** Advised on an HKIAC

arbitration against its former Chinese supplier, in connection with misappropriation of trade secrets, know-how and designs relating to automobile parts and various breaches of a Master Supply Agreement.

- **A Singapore based private equity fund:** Advised on a claim brought by the fund (HKIAC) against its co-investor and majority shareholder in the holding entity for a business engaged principally in electronics manufacturing in the PRC, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The dispute involved, in addition to the HKIAC arbitration, litigation in the BVI and restructuring of the underlying private equity deals.
- **A leading PRC real estate developer:** Advised on an international arbitration (UNCITRAL under the auspices of the HKIAC) against a consortium of private equity investors. The claim for over US\$600 million related to a pre-IPO investment and involved satellite litigation (including injunction and winding-up proceedings) in Hong Kong, the BVI and the Cayman Islands.
- **A regional airline:** Advised on a SIAC arbitration against a leading European provider of aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul services relating to a dispute arising out of the termination of various aircraft service agreements.
- **A number of private equity and hedge funds:** Resisted an injunction obtained in the High Court of Hong Kong in support of a potential overseas arbitration. The injunction prevented the investors from disposing of their interests in a major PRC-based website, in a deal worth US\$1.6 billion, pending the resolution of a dispute between the investors and the website's founder.

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 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.
- **A Korean conglomerate:** Advised on proceedings brought in the High Court of Hong Kong for damages arising from a complex fraud arising out of a commodities transaction.
- **The major shareholder of a Hong Kong listed company:** Advised on a dispute arising out of a boardroom takeover, which involved injunction proceedings in Hong Kong and Bermuda.
- **An Australian based retailer:** Advised on proceedings brought in Hong Kong which involved seeking a declaration from the court on the effect of the doctrines of champerty and maintenance on the third party funding of commercial litigation and the scope of the access to justice exception.

Activities and Affiliations

Presentations

Robert regularly speaks at conferences in Hong Kong and overseas on dispute resolution, particularly on international arbitration.

Memberships

- Council member, The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Co-Chair, Inter Pacific Bar Association's (IPBA) Dispute resolution & Arbitration Committee
- Member, HKIAC's Belt and Road Advisory Committee
- Former Co-Chair, HKIAC's HK45

Prior and Present Employment

- Partner, Bird & Bird, 2016–2018
- Senior Associate, RPC, 2012–2016
- Associate, Barlow Lyde & Gilbert (Clyde & Co post-merger), 2008–2012
- Trainee and Associate, Penningtons Solicitors LLP, 2003–2008

Areas of focus

Practices

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Financial Markets Litigation and Regulation
- Securities and Shareholder Litigation
- Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy
- Arbitration
- Fraud, Corruption and Asset Recovery
- White Collar and Government Investigations

Industry sectors

- Professional Liability

Education

- College of Law, 2003, LPC
- University of Hull, 2001, LLB Law with French
- 2000, Dipôme de Droit Français

Admissions and qualifications

- England and Wales, 2005
- Hong Kong, 2010

Languages

- English
- French