



Tara Minhao Liao

Barrister-at-law Denis Chang's Chambers

Call: 2015 (HK), 2023 (England & Wales), 2024 (BVI)

Set: Main Set

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Languages: English: Fluent; Mandarin and Cantonese: Native

Biography

Tara began full practice as a barrister in Hong Kong in 2015. She is ranked as a leading junior in the Commercial Disputes category by Legal 500 Asia-Pacific since 2021. She sat as a Deputy District Judge in 2021 and 2023. She is on the HKIAC List of Arbitrators and SCIAHK List of Arbitrators, and sits as an arbitrator from time to time. She was called to the UK Bar in 2023 and practises from 7 Bedford Row Chambers in London while continuing her practice in Hong Kong from Denis Chang's Chambers. Apart from her UK and Hong Kong practice, she is developing a fast growing offshore practice since her admission to the BVI bar in 2024.

Tara has a broad commercial practice with a focus on commercial injunctions and civil fraud, international arbitrations, shareholders' disputes, company, insolvency, trust and cross-border disputes. She also has experience in insurance and regulatory matters. She was a Committee member of HK45 from 2020 to 2022, an active young arbitration practitioners group in Asia.

Prior to joining the Bar, she was a solicitor in an international law firm specialising in commercial litigation and regulatory matters. She holds a bachelor degree in PRC laws from Peking University and has passed the PRC National Judicial Examination.

Due to her language skills and background, she has been instructed by PRC law firms and clients in arbitrations and to provide legal opinions on Hong Kong law in PRC legal proceedings from time to time.

Selected cases

Company and shareholders' disputes

- Acting for the liquidators of a BVI company in the preservation/recovery of a luxury yacht
- *Securities and Futures Commission v Sound Global Ltd & Others* [2022] HKCFI 3025, CACV 438/2022, [2025] HKCFI 2052 (*public interest petition - director's disqualification – share purchase remedy*)
- *Re Florescent Holdings Ltd.* [2022] HKCFI 649; [2022] 2 HKLRD 203 (*creditor's winding up – Money Lenders Ordinance (Cap. 163)*)
- *Acropolis Limited & another v W&Q Investment Ltd & others* [2018] HKCA 184, HCA 1496/2017, 31 August 2017 (*shareholders dispute in a GEM listco – unfair prejudice - conspiracy to defraud/injure – breach of fiduciary duties - interim injunction*)
- *Aeso Holding Limited & others v Chan Siu Chung & others*, HCMP 1721/2017, 11 August 2017 (*Director's right to inspect documents – mandatory injunction*)
- *Tsang Woon Ming v Lai Ka Lim & Others* (HCCW 407/2016); *King's Glory Educational Centre Limited v Tsang Woon Ming & Others* (HCA 33/2017); *Nobility School Limited v Tsang Woon Ming & Others* [2020] HKCFI 1503 (*unfair prejudice – just and equitable winding up – breach of fiduciary duties*)
- *WHC Limited trading as Wine High Club & others v Hong Kong Wine Chamber of Commerce Limited* [2019] HKCFI 2548 (*irregular general meeting/resolutions – Chairman's exercise of power -determination of membership*)
- *Zhao Zhi Qiang v Zhao Zhiguang & Asian Trinity Limited* [2022] HKCFI 3356

Commercial injunctions

- *ZS Capital Fund SPC & others v Astor Asset Management 3 Limited & Zundiao Securities Limited* [2024] HKCFI 1535 (*securities & financing arrangement – civil fraud - proprietary injunction – ancillary disclosure order*)
- Acting for the victims of a complex Ponzi scheme perpetrated by a Hong Kong trust company involving the tracing and recovery of assets through Cayman funds, various UK entities and real estate projects in the UK
- Acting for the judgment creditor of a PRC judgment in the enforcement actions in the BVI including applications for Norwich Pharmacal Orders, interim receivership over shares of a BVI company and the recovery of a private jet
- Acted for a prominent Chinese private equity firm in a claim against its former senior legal counsel for breach of confidentiality and defamation

- *Silver Universe Investments Ltd v China Times Securities Limited & ors* [2019] HKCFI 834, [2019] HKCFI 153, [2021] HKCA 105 (*securities & financing arrangement – breach of trust - civil fraud - proprietary injunction – ancillary disclosure order*)
- *Aeso Holding Limited & another v Chan Siu Chung & others*, HCA 1737/2017 & HCMP 1647/2017, 4 September 2017 (*civil fraud/breach of fiduciary duties-Mareva/proprietary injunction – receivership*)
- *Grupo Arbulu S L v Likewo (HK) Limited* [2019] HKCFI 2896 (*Mareva injunction*)
- *The University of Hong Kong v Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co Ltd & another*, [2016] 1 HKLRD 536 (*interim injunction – confidentiality*)

Arbitration

- Sitting as arbitrator in various commercial arbitrations
- Acting as junior counsel in an HKIAC arbitration governed by English law concerning a loan dispute arising out of a US Dollar loan funding certain infrastructure development in Myanmar which suffered devastating loss following the military coup and ongoing armed conflict in Myanmar and involves the legal implications of restrictions imposed by Myanmar Central Bank on the conversion of local currency to foreign currencies and repayment to foreign banks
- Acting as sole advocate in an HKIAC arbitration of a Germany/Korean joint venture dispute which involved allegations of falsification of accounts and meticulous forensic analysis of financial statements of multiple subsidiaries in Hong Kong, Vietnam and Korea;
- Acting as co-counsel in the substantive hearings of a complex securities lending case involving two parallel arbitrations in St Kitts & Nevis and Hong Kong, injunction applications in aid of arbitration as well as court proceedings concerning enforcement of the awards and the resolution of residual issues;
- Acting as sole advocate in the substantive hearing of a domestic arbitration involving the interpretation of a deed of mutual covenant in a commercial building;
- Acting as sole counsel or junior counsel in various injunctions/ ancillary relief in aid of arbitrations;
- Drafting pleadings, witness statements and opening/closing submissions, advice in HKIAC and CIETAC seated arbitrations concerning international sale of goods, share purchase agreements and construction;

Defamation

- *Tam Heung Man v Incorporated Owners of Tung Lung Court (Blocks A-F)* [2019] HKDC 401 (*defamation – qualified privilege – malice – attribution of malice*)

Others

- *Competition Commission v W. Hing Construction Company Limited* [2019] HKLRD 46 (*alleged market sharing & price sharing - economic efficiency defence*)
- *Re A & Another* [2019] HKCFI 1749 (*surrogacy – parental order*)
- *Wu Zuo Cheng v Leung Lai Ching Margaret & others*, HCMP 2080/2015, 16 February 2016 (registration and enforcement of a Mainland Judgment under the Mainland Judgments (*Reciprocal Arrangement*) Ordinance (CAP.597))

Qualifications

Barrister, the British Virgin Islands (2024)
Barrister, England & Wales (2023)
Barrister, Hong Kong S.A.R. (2015)
Solicitor, Hong Kong S.A.R. (2010 -2014)
PRC National Judicial Examination

Education

Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, The University of Hong Kong
Graduate Diploma in Law, BPP Law School, UK
Bachelor of Laws (PRC), Peking University, Beijing, P. R. China

Appointments

Deputy District Judge, Hong Kong (2021, 2023)
HKIAC List of Arbitrators (July 2023-present)
South China International Arbitration Centre (HK) List of Arbitrators (July 2025-present)
HK45 Committee Member (2020-2022)

Scholarships

Middle Temple Society Advocacy Scholarship
Herbert Smith PRC Scholarship