

## HKVCA Brownbag Luncheon Talk - 26 November, 2019



### **Darren Bowdern, Partner, Head of Alternative Investments, KPMG**

Darren is a partner in KPMG's Hong Kong tax practice. He has more than 25 years experience of serving institutions in a wide range of industries in Hong Kong and Asia Pacific.

Darren heads up the M&A Tax practice in Hong Kong. He has been advising on transactions in Asia Pacific with respect to tax matters, including due diligence reviews, investment holding structures and advising on cross border transactions. Many of these projects comprise of tax effective regional planning including consideration of direct and indirect taxes, capital and stamp duties, withholding taxes and the effective use of double taxation agreements.

Darren also advises on establishing direct investment, private equity and other investment funds in Hong Kong and advises clients in a wide range of industries. Darren specializes in cross-border buy-and sell-side M&A tax services (e.g. Tax Due Diligence, Tax Vendor Due Diligence), tax structuring, tax planning and optimization and international corporate tax issues, restructuring and optimization. Darren has extensive experience in working with the mainland Chinese market, including structuring acquisitions of investments in China.

Darren is the Deputy Chair of the Australian Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong and Macau (AustCham) and the Chair of the Finance, Legal and Tax Committee of The AustCham. He is currently a Vice Chair of the Technical Committee of the Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (HKVCA) and the Tax Committee Member of the Alternative Investment Management Association Limited (AIMA). He is a committee member in the Tax and Financial Services Working Group under the Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) of the HKSAR.

Darren graduated from the University of Melbourne and is a fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.



### **Alice Molan, Partner, Hong Kong, Walkers**

Alice Molan is a Partner in the Regulatory & Risk Advisory Group of Walkers' Hong Kong office.

Alice is experienced in advising clients on licensing and prudential matters, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing obligations, sanctions controls, information sharing arrangements and economic substance requirements. She assists clients to understand the application of regulatory obligations to their business and respond accordingly. This includes through the development of internal controls, review of transactional documents and the preparation of client facing material. She has extensive experience engaging with regulators on both an ongoing basis as well as assisting clients to respond to regulatory investigations. Alice has a particular interest in financial technology and assisting clients meet their regulatory obligations in the context of emerging technology and new product offerings.

Prior to joining Walkers, Alice was a senior regulatory lawyer in the banking and finance team of King & Wood Mallesons. Alice regularly advised Hong Kong based and international financial institutions wanting to understand Hong Kong's regulatory regime and keep up with regulatory developments. Prior to joining the Hong Kong team, Alice began her legal career in the Melbourne office of King & Wood Mallesons.



**James Gaden, Partner, Hong Kong, Walkers**

James Gaden is a Partner in the Global Corporate and Investment Funds Groups of Walkers' Hong Kong office. He has over 15 years of experience advising the investment funds industry. He specialises in advising private equity and hedge fund managers on a broad spectrum of legal issues including fund formation and structuring, acquisitions and disposals, fund restructuring and fund financing.

James has developed particular expertise in private equity, venture capital and the legal aspects of cryptocurrencies. He has experience advising clients from across the region including in Hong Kong, China, Japan, Korea, Singapore and Australia. James is a respected practitioner in the investment funds industry and is a regular speaker at industry events.

Prior to joining Walkers in 2018, James was a partner at another leading offshore law firm where he worked from 2010 to 2018 in Hong Kong. He also worked in the Investment Funds team of the Hong Kong office of Sidley Austin and before that, at Gilbert & Tobin in Sydney.