

HKVCA Webinar – June 8, 2021

Speakers' bio



Gavin Anderson, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Gavin Anderson is based in the Hong Kong office and is a member of the firm's Investment Funds and Investment Management Group. He has broad experience in advising sponsors and investors on a variety of issues, including fund formation, co-investment, fund restructurings and carried interest arrangements.

The major legal directories recognise Mr. Anderson as one of the leading lawyers in the region. He is named as a Rising Star in IFLR1000 (2020), recommended for Investments Funds in The Legal 500 Asia Pacific (2020) and also ranked in Chambers Asia-Pacific (2020) and Chambers Global (2020).

Mr. Anderson regularly writes and speaks on private equity topics. He is the author of the "Investor side letters" chapter in "Global Investment Funds: A Practical Guide to Structuring, Raising and Managing Funds," published by Global Law and Business (July, 2016). He is also a co-author of "Asia Is at a Turning Point," Private Equity International (September, 2018).

Mr. Anderson earned his B.A. (Hons) from the University of Oxford (Brasenose College) in 2000 and PgDL from the College of Law at Guildford in 2001. He graduated from the Legal Practice Course at the Oxford Institute of Legal Practice in 2002. Prior to joining Debevoise in 2006, he trained and worked as an associate at an international law firm in London.



Mark Johnson, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Mark Johnson is a partner in the firm's Hong Kong office and a member of the International Dispute Resolution Group. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, international arbitration and white collar/regulatory defense matters, particularly in the financial services sector.

Mr. Johnson joined Debevoise in March 2015. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Johnson was a partner at a leading international firm in Hong Kong, where he oversaw the opening of the firm's disputes practices in Singapore, Jakarta, Bangkok, Beijing, Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo.

For more than 30 years in the region, Mr. Johnson has built a successful practice advising on large-scale cross-border and domestic commercial disputes in the courts or before arbitral institutions, internal and regulatory investigations and advising clients in relation to inquiries from a range of regulatory bodies, both in Asia and elsewhere. These include matters involving the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Much of his work is in the financial services, private equity and private wealth sectors.

Mr. Johnson has become one of Asia's most respected and experienced litigators. Chambers Asia-Pacific (2021) ranks him as a Band 1 lawyer in China for financial services: contentious regulatory matters and litigation. Clients praise his skill, saying that he is a "very experienced" litigator who has "built a decent reputation in the investigations and regulatory space," and that he is "a terrific lawyer" who is "doing an outstanding job on high-stakes and complex matters." According to previous editions of the guide, "complex regulatory matters in difficult jurisdictions are his sweet spot," and he has "very strong judgement, creativity and excellent insight." Labelled as an "Asia disputes doyen" by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, Mr. Johnson is listed in its Hall of Fame for litigation, as well as a leading individual for anti-corruption and compliance. He is ranked in the top tier for dispute resolution and also recommended for his corporate investigations/anti-corruption practice in Chambers Global (2021). The guide has described him as a "very experienced" litigator who has "built a decent reputation in the investigations and regulatory space," and also noted that he is "very, very

knowledgeable.” IFLR1000 (2020) recommends Mr. Johnson for Financial Services Regulatory work, Benchmark Litigation (Asia-Pacific) (2019) names him a Dispute Resolution Star and he is named by Expert Guides in its “Best of the Best” list for Litigation and White Collar Crime.

Mr. Johnson holds a law degree from Bristol University. He is admitted to practice as a solicitor in Hong Kong and England & Wales.



Gareth Hughes, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Gareth Hughes is a partner in the firm’s Hong Kong office and a member of the International Dispute Resolution Group. His practice focusses on major commercial disputes and investigations work, with a particular focus on financial institutions and contentious regulatory matters.

Mr. Hughes joined Debevoise in October 2018. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Hughes was a partner at a leading international firm in Hong Kong, where he oversaw the opening of the firm’s dispute practice in Hong Kong and was head of the firm’s Asia disputes group.

With over 18 years of experience in the region, Mr. Hughes has built a successful practice specializing in commercial litigation, international arbitration and investigations work in relation to financial services, corporate finance, fraud, insurance and shareholder-related disputes. Mr. Hughes has acted for major corporates and financial institutions, with many of his matters involving the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Mr. Hughes has become one of Asia’s most respected and experienced litigators. The Legal 500 Asia Pacific lists him in its Hall of Fame and he is also recognized as a leading individual for dispute resolution in PLC, Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global. Benchmark Litigation (Asia-Pacific) (2019) names him a Dispute Resolution Star, and he is also recognized by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific (2021) for his anti-corruption and compliance practice and by Chambers Asia-Pacific (2021) as a leading individual for Contentious Regulatory Financial Services-related matters. Mr. Hughes has been described in The Legal 500 Asia Pacific as a “highly professional and skilled legal operator who inspires confidence and is an extremely safe pair of hands,” and Chambers Asia-Pacific has noted that he “always has his eye on the right outcome for the client,” with clients saying that “he knows the regulators very well and has a sophisticated and commercial approach to investigations which is quite unique.” He has also received praise for his “considerable experience advising on regulatory matters and investigations,” his “clear, unambiguous advice” and being “technically extremely sound but also highly pragmatic.” According to clients, “he never fails to deliver as promised.”

Mr. Hughes’ recent publications include “Insider Dealer or unknowing Participant: HK Court of Appeal confirms SFC’s broad powers to pursue insider dealing and fraud offences” (Emerald Publishing, 2018).

Mr. Hughes holds a law degree from Manchester University. He is admitted to practice as a solicitor in Hong Kong and England & Wales.



Ralph Sellar, International Counsel, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Ralph Sellar is an international counsel and English and Hong Kong qualified member of the firm’s International Dispute Resolution Group based in the Hong Kong office. Mr. Sellar is a commercial litigator with extensive experience in a range of banking litigation, including disputes relating to investment and wholesale banking, listed securities, OTC derivatives and structured products.

Mr. Sellar has also conducted many regulatory investigations and white collar criminal defence cases. Mr Sellar has experience of international investigations by the UK’s FCA, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the SFC, the CFTC, the SEC and the Department of Justice.

Mr. Sellar joined Debevoise in the London office in 2014, prior to which he was an associate at the London offices of a leading global law firm. In October 2015, Mr. Sellar transferred to the firm's Hong Kong office. Mr. Sellar speaks regularly on banking and regulatory issues and is a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries Ethics Committee. Mr. Sellar's recent publications include "U.K. Court Of Appeal Decides On "Commercial Reasonableness" In The Context Of Determinations Made By Parties To Financial Instruments", *The Banking Law Journal* (July/August 2014). Mr. Sellar graduated from University College London in 2006 with a first class degree.



Cameron Sim, Associate, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Cameron Sim is a member of the International Dispute Resolution Group at Debevoise & Plimpton, based in Hong Kong, whose practice focuses on commercial and investment treaty arbitration. Mr. Sim is admitted in New York, Hong Kong, England & Wales, and Australia. He acts in proceedings worldwide, and has appeared as advocate before tribunals seated in both Europe and Asia. He is recognised by *Who's Who Legal* (2021) as a future leader of international arbitration.

Mr. Sim has represented corporates and sovereigns across a range of industries, including banking and finance, energy, pharmaceuticals, private equity, retail, and telecommunications. He has particular experience in disputes concerning shareholder agreements, joint ventures, fund structures, GP and LP obligations, supply and distribution, investment protections, fraud, and general contractual disputes. He has acted in arbitrations under all major arbitration rules in proceedings in all leading arbitral seats, and has significant expertise of arbitrations seated in Hong Kong and London under the HKIAC, ICC, and LCIA rules. Several of his arbitrations have involved multiple parallel proceedings in courts (particularly in the BVI and the Cayman Islands), including urgent interim applications for disclosure, freezing, and receivership orders.

Before joining the firm, Mr. Sim clerked for the President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. He also completed his training at a Magic Circle firm in London (including secondments to an international oil and gas company, and a pro bono advocacy unit). Prior to this, Mr. Sim graduated from the University of Melbourne with a BA/LLB (First Class Honours). He was awarded an Allan Myers scholarship to complete Masters study at the University of Oxford (BCL, Distinction), where his studies focused on private and public international law.

Mr. Sim is an active member of the international arbitration community. He is the Asia Chair for the Institute for Transnational Arbitration's under-40 group (the Young ITA). He regularly writes and speaks on legal issues, and his work is frequently cited by leading commentators.

Mr. Sim's key publications include "Investment Treaty Arbitration in the Asia-Pacific," *Global Arbitration Review: The Asia-Pacific Arbitration Review* (2020); "Challenging and Enforcing Arbitration Awards in Hong Kong," *Global Arbitration Review: Guide to Challenging and Enforcing Arbitration Awards* (2020); "The application of transparency," *Transparency in International Investment Arbitration*, Cambridge University Press (2015); "Choice of Law and Anti-Suit Injunctions: Relocating Comity," *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* (2013); "Expert Witness Immunity After *Jones v Kaney*," *Torts Law Journal*, (2011); and "Non-Justiciability in Australian Private International Law: A Lack of 'Judicial Restraint'?", *Melbourne Journal of International Law* (2009).

His recent speaking engagements include "Interim Relief in Cross-Border Disputes: From London to Hong Kong," Debevoise & Plimpton (November, 2020); "The Future of Investment Arbitration in Asia," Chartered Institute of Arbitrators East Asia Branch Young Members Group, 2nd Annual Conference (November, 2020); "Recent Developments in Contract Law," Australian Mining and Petroleum Law Association Conference (October, 2020); "The Future of Hong Kong Arbitration," Debevoise & Plimpton (September, 2020); "Investor-State Arbitration in the Asia Pacific," Debevoise & Plimpton and Corrs Chambers Westgarth (July, 2020); "Third Party Funding of Arbitration in Asia: Reducing Legal Spend and Transferring Risk," Debevoise & Plimpton (April, 2020); "Enforcing Judgments and Obtaining Interim Measures: Increased Co-operation Between Hong Kong and Mainland China,"

Zhong Lun Law Firm, Shanghai (November, 2019); “Emergency and Interim Measures and in Commercial and Investor-State Arbitration,” Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Brisbane (November, 2019); and “Recent Changes in Hong Kong Law to Permit Third-Party Funding of Arbitration,” Harbour Litigation Funding, Hong Kong (April, 2019).

Mr. Sim was admitted as an Australian Lawyer of the Supreme Court of Victoria and a Solicitor and Barrister of the High Court of Australia in 2010, as a solicitor of the Senior Courts of England & Wales in 2011, as an Attorney and Counsellor at Law in the State of New York in 2016, and as a Solicitor of the High Court of the Hong Kong SAR in 2021.