



The Legal System

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Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and is a Common Law jurisdiction. The official languages of the law are English and Chinese. All ordinances have been translated into Chinese. The official language of the courts is also English and Chinese.

Hong Kong has a split profession, where the solicitor deals with the client directly and briefs a barrister to go to court. Some solicitors do appear as advocates in the lower courts, and the issue of solicitors' rights of audience in the higher courts is still under review.

In addition to local law firms practising Hong Kong law, there is a large contingent of registered foreign lawyers, many of whom practise in the Hong Kong branch offices of American law firms, which are registered as foreign law firms in Hong Kong (See list of registered foreign law firms.)

You can get help in finding a law firm from:

The Law Society of Hong Kong

3/F Wing On Hse,

71 Des Voeux Rd

Central, HK, China

Tel: 2846 0500 Fax: 2845 0387

Website: www.hklawsoc.org.hk



For further information contact Heidi Chu, Director of Standards & Development.

- *Information provided by The Law Society of Hong Kong*

HONG KONG LAW FIRMS

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We are a focused Greater China business law firm with offices in Hong Kong and Shanghai. We regularly advise multinational companies and foreign companies on a wide range of corporate and commercial issues including incorporation of companies, mergers and acquisitions, foreign direct investments, joint ventures, corporate restructuring, regulatory compliance and employment matters.

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Areas of Practice include: Arbitration and Dispute Resolution; Banking & Finance; Corporate and Commercial; Employment; Financial Services; Foreign Direct Investment; Immigration; Insurance; Intellectual Property; Major Projects and Project Finance; Mergers & Acquisitions; Private Equity/ Venture Capital; Real Estate/ Property; Securities; Taxation; Technology, Media and Telecommunications; WTO / International Trade.

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 Brian Littlewood, Solicitor

Littlewoods is a firm of solicitors with experience in advising individuals and companies in the following areas:-

1) Company formation and corporate advice; 2) Employment law; 3) Family law; 4) Immigration law including advice on employment/investor visas and residency requirements; 5) Personal injury and medical negligence claims; 6) Property purchase and rental agreements; 7) Court representation in civil and criminal matters. The firm comprises of five Hong Kong qualified lawyers including lawyers also qualified to practise in the United Kingdom and the United States.

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Sidley Austin is an international law firm with over 1,700 lawyers and 16 offices located in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. Our Hong Kong office offers Hong Kong, English and US legal advice on all aspects of corporate, commercial and financial law, including corporate finance, banking and regulatory work, structured finance and securitization, debt and equity capital markets, litigation and arbitration, international investment funds, private equity and venture capital, mergers and acquisitions, project and real estate-related finance, restructuring and PRC matters.

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