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PRINCE'S CHAMBERS

THOMAS YEON

Admissions

2022 Barrister, Hong Kong

Academic

2020 Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, University of Hong Kong
2019 Master of Laws, London School of Economics and Political Science (Merit)
2018 Bachelor of Laws, University of Durham (First class honours)

Practice profile

Thomas is developing a broad civil and arbitration practice (including urgent injunctive and interlocutory matters) and accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' work. He is comfortable with being instructed as sole counsel or a member of a larger team. He is capable of providing written submissions and conduct hearings in both English and Chinese (traditional/simplified). He is a Middle Temple Scholar and a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators.

Thomas has contributed to practitioners' texts and published at peer-reviewed legal periodicals, including matters involving cross-border elements and conflicts of laws.

Prior to commencing practice, Thomas clerked as a Judicial Assistant at the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal. In this capacity, he assisted in substantive appeals, applications for leave to appeal and other legal research and publications on a variety of private law and public law matters.

Appointments and Memberships

Appointments

- Member of the following Committees of the Hong Kong Bar Association:
 - Standing Committee on International Practice (2023 – Present)
 - Practice Committee on Financial and Securities Law (2025 – Present)
 - Practice Committee on Arbitration (2024 – Present)
 - Practice Committee on Companies Law (2023 – Present)
- Tutor, City University of Hong Kong (2024 – Present) (subject: arbitration)
- Lecturer (Non-Clinical), University of Hong Kong (2023) (subject: tort)
- Judicial Assistant, Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal (2020 – 2021)

Memberships

- Fellow, Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (since July 2024)

Selected Cases

Arbitration (litigation-related matters)

- Advised on the merits of an application to set aside an HKIAC-award on the basis of denial of due process and impact of an agreement to stay its execution
- Advised on the defence of an investment bonds arbitration (HKIAC Rules) parallel to winding up proceedings

Banking and Financial Services

- *Yinggao Resources Limited and another v HSBC* [2024] HKCA 1130 – Breach of banking mandate and negligence dispute arising from loss in metal trading contracts; application for leave to amend pleadings to claim for damages from lost opportunities to invest (with Tanie Toh)
- *Xue Xiaoyun v Susan Yung and BOCI Securities Limited* HCA 2526/2018 – Negligent misstatements by investment advisor on cross-border transactions, vicarious liability of securities firm (judgment pending) (with Samuel Wong)

- Acted for an investor in an arbitration against a trust management services company for default in periodical payments from trust fund and return of principal (ICC Rules) (governing law: Hong Kong law)
- Advised on mortgage actions involving miscalculations in amounts due and allegations of misconduct of financial institutions and lenders
- Advised a firm of auditors on claims against a HKEx-listed company for unpaid audit fees and disputes over quality of work performed

Bankruptcy and Insolvency

- *In the Matter of China First Capital Group Limited* [2025] HKCFI 1441 — substitution application by supporting creditor based on an HKEx-listed company's failure to repay principal and interests on investment bonds
- Advising on private examinations and disclosure applications against former directors and staffs of a property developer for misappropriation of company assets and diversion of business opportunities
- Advised on the presentation of proof of debt of over HK\$50 million against the China Evergrande Group concurrent or alternative to commencement of arbitration proceedings for breach of investment agreements by the company and its directors

Commercial and International Trade

- *Stanford Swim School Company Limited v The Australian International School Foundation Limited* HCA 704/2025 — Disputes over use of school facilities under licence; resisted interim-interim injunction for continued use of facilities (with Phillip Rompotis) (settled)
- Acted for a Hong Kong cosmetics and skincare products company in a 5-day arbitration for breaches of joint venture agreement for damages over HK\$300 million (HKIAC Rules) (governing law: Hong Kong law) (with Samuel Wong)
- Advised a PRC state-owned enterprise on potential arbitration proceedings arising from failure to deliver metal ores due to supplier's administration proceedings (LCIA Rules) (governing law: English law) (with Samuel Wong)
- Advised a local food importer and distributor on a stay application in favour of the Court of Milan in Italy

Company

- *In the Matter of East Asia Vacuum Plating Factory Limited* HCMP 1274/2024 – Application under section 570 of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.622) to appoint directors for company with no living directors or shareholders (*ex tempore* judgment)
- Advised a shareholder on the removal of the director of a company on the basis of improper corporate management and breach of directors' duties

Fraud and Asset Recovery

- *Michael Yap and another v Lai Yip Dyeing Factory Limited and others* HCA 1084/2011— Payment of judgment debt following oral examination of judgment debtors arising from judgment for failures to repay under promissory note and deed of guarantee (with Samuel Wong)
- *Ng Hiu Ngai v Jan Dostal* DCCJ 2019/2025 — resisted an *ex parte* on notice application for injunction by a victim of fraud over funds in a bank account subject to a garnishee order of the Court of First Instance (*ex tempore* judgment)

Securities

- Advising on Market Misconduct Tribunal proceedings on false trading, price rigging, stock market manipulation, and conspiracy to perpetrate market misconduct under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571)

Taxation and Costs

- 香港特別行政區 訴 秦錦釗 – taxation of costs following 97-days criminal trial on conspiracy to export unmanifested cargo and conspiracy to commit money laundering in excess of HK\$3 billion:
 - [2024] 6 HKC 434 – Review by Taxing Master
 - [2024] HKDC 1917 – Review by Judge (with Wing So)
- Acted for a financial services and investment company on resisting overall costs of arbitration and interlocutory proceedings therein (HKIAC Rules)
- Advising on a claim against the Director of Legal Aid for costs orders made against a legally-aided party in ancillary relief proceedings (with Tanie Toh)

Trusts, Probate, and Succession

- ***In the Matter of the Estate of Li Wun Yee*** (administration of estate of assets worth over HK\$100 million and recovery actions in the PRC):
 - HCA 1436/2023 – Acting for the estate against claims for breach of directors' duties and breach of trust (led by Ambrose Ho SC)
 - HCCA 5726/2023 – Resisted passing-over application pursuant to section 36 of the Probate and Administration Ordinance (Cap.10) by a caveator (settled)
- ***Gordon David Michael George Oldham, the Administrator of the Estate of David Tang*** HCMP 944/2024 — Application for a Beddoe Order in favour of the sale of company shares for estate administration and distributions (*ex tempore* judgment)

Publications and Seminars

Publications – Practitioners' Texts

- *Bullen and Leake and Jacob's Hong Kong Precedents of Pleadings* (4th edn) (forthcoming):
 - "Admiralty" (with Edward Alder)
 - "Bankers" and "Bills of Sale" (with Kenneth Lee and Tanie Toh)
- "Vicarious Liability" and "Conflict of Laws" in *Tort Law and Practice in Hong Kong* (4th edn)
- "Winding-Up by the Court" in *Company Law in Hong Kong: Insolvency 2023*

Publications – Academic

- "Taking 'Public Function' Seriously" (2021) 51(2) *Hong Kong Law Journal* 547–572 (with Gabriel Wan) (referred to in *Chitty on Contracts – Hong Kong Specific Contracts* (7th edn), §14-151)
- "*Joe Zhixiong Zhou v SAIF Partners II L.P.*: The Importance of Mapping Out the Correct Corporate Structure" (2021) 27(5) *Trusts and Trustees* 394–405 (with Benny Chung and Bennett Au Yeung)
- "*Xiamen Xinjingdi Group Ltd v Eton Properties Ltd*: Clarifying the Steps and Issues to Consider when Lodging a Trust Claim in Cross-Border Disputes" (2021) 27(3) *Trusts and Trustees* 246–263 (with Benny Chung)
- "Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law in Hong Kong: In Search of Coherence" [2021] *Public Law* 261–270 (with Trevor T.W.Wan)

Seminars

- "Winding Up in Light of Potential Arbitration and Jurisdictional Issues: Recent Developments" (CPD accredited; March 2024)
- "UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG): 'Love it or hate it, but NEVER leave it!'" (October 2023) (with Louise Barrington, Samuel Wong, and Sherlin Tung)
- "*Pacta Sunt Servanda* in Changing Times" (Chinese University of Hong Kong, "*Pacta Sunt Servanda*" academic conference; 25 June 2021) (as Research Assistant to the Hon Geoffrey Ma)

Scholarship and Awards

- Middle Temple Scholarship for Advocacy Training (2025)
- Winner, 9th Hong Kong Human Rights Moot (2020)
- 3 Verulam Buildings Prize for Best Overall Submission, LSE Law Review (2020)
- Winner, Ambassador's Moot (2018)
- Clyde & Co Research Internship in Public Law and Human Rights, Durham Law School (to Professor Helen Fenwick, Professor Roger Masterman, and Dr Se-Shauna Wheatle) (2017)
- Letter of Commendation for Academic Excellence, Durham Law School (2016)