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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 commercial 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 preparing legal documents 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 on a variety of practice areas in civil litigation, 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. He also authored academic pieces of various lengths, including over 10 articles published at peer-reviewed legal periodicals.

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 – 2025) (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 (tribunal and court-related matters)

- Assisted a tribunal on a 2-day hearing on breach of information and share covenants under an investment deed (HKIAC Rules)
- Advised on 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

Banking, Financial Services, and Securities

- *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 to amend pleadings to claim for damages from lost opportunities to invest (with Tanie Toh)*

- *Xue Xiaoyun v Susan Yung and BOCI Securities Limited* [2025] 5 HKLRD 473 – 5-day trial on negligent misstatements by investment advisor on cross-border transactions and vicarious liability of securities firm (with Samuel Wong)
- *In the Matter of China Investment Fund Co Ltd and Smartac Group China Holdings Ltd* — 16-day trial before the Market Misconduct Tribunal on false trading, price rigging, stock market manipulation, and assisting / conniving in perpetration of market misconduct
- 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)

Bankruptcy and Insolvency

- *In the Matter of China First Capital Group Limited* [2025] 2 HKLRD 750 — substitution application by supporting creditor based on an HKEx-listed company's failure to repay principal and interests on investment bonds
- Advised 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 against the China Evergrande Group concurrent or alternative to commencement of arbitration proceedings for breach of investment agreements by the company and its former directors

Commercial and International Trade

- *XY, LLC v Jesse Zhu and Grand Network Technology Ltd* (with Phillip Rompotis):
 - HCA 3039/2016 – 7-day trial on enforcement of foreign judgment and recovery of assets from company under judgment debtor's control and beneficial ownership
 - HCMP 869/2014 – Resisted application to vary a *Mareva* injunction for payment of legal fees (*ex tempore* judgment)
- *King Hang Engineering Company Ltd v Federal Steel Works Engineering Ltd* DCCJ 484/2022 – 4-day trial on disputes over payments in structural steelwork construction contracts (settled on day 4)
- Acted for a Hong Kong cosmetics and skincare products company in a 5-day trial for breaches of joint venture agreement for damages over HK\$300 million (HKIAC Rules) (governing law: Hong Kong law) (with Samuel Wong)
- Advised an international streaming media service group on the use of cryptocurrencies for donation and subscription payments
- 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)

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)
- Advising a minority shareholder of an international resort developer on dissipation of substantial assets by directors in the Middle East by the board of directors
- Advised a director of a Cayman Islands company holding Hong Kong, PRC, and offshore investments on defences against potential applications of removal from directorship over alleged failure to manage and distribute assets to beneficiaries under family trusts

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)

Taxation and Costs

- 香港特別行政區 訴 秦錦釗 ([2024] 6 HKC 434 – Review by Taxing Master; [2025] 4 HKC 524 – Review by Judge (with Wing So) – taxation of costs following 97-day trial on conspiracy to export unmanifested cargo and conspiracy to commit money laundering in excess of HK\$3 billion

- Acted for a financial services and investment company on resisting overall costs of arbitration and interlocutory proceedings therein (HKIAC Rules)

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

- Chitty on Contracts: Hong Kong Specific Contracts* (8th edn), "Carriage by Sea" (with Edward Alder) and "Suretyship and Guarantees" (forthcoming)
- Company Law in Hong Kong: Insolvency* 2027, "Winding-Up by the Court" (forthcoming)
- Bullen and Leake and Jacob's Hong Kong Precedents of Pleadings* (4th edn), "Admiralty" (with Edward Alder); "Bankers" and "Bills of Sale" (with Kenneth Lee and Tanie Toh)
- Tort Law and Practice in Hong Kong* (4th edn), "Vicarious Liability" and "Conflict of Laws"

Publications – Academic (For a full list, please visit [Thomas's ORCID profile](#))

- "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)

Seminars

- "Recognition / Enforcement of Arbitration Award; Challenge to Enforcement, and setting aside of Arbitration Award in Hong Kong" (HKIArb Training Course for Jiangsu Lawyer Association; October 2025) (with Sebastian Hughes)
- "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)