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LAVESH KIRPALANI

Practice profile

Lavesh has a broad civil litigation and commercial arbitration practice and accepts instructions in all areas of work. His civil litigation experience includes commercial, construction, company, corporate insolvency, fraud, regulatory, harassment, shipping, employment, intellectual property, non-refoulement claims, and matrimonial law. He has appeared in his own right before the Court of Final Appeal, the Court of Appeal, the Court of First Instance, the District Court, and the Magistrate Courts.

He is recommended in Legal 500 Asia Pacific from 2021 to 2026 for Commercial Disputes, and is recognised as a Leading Employment & Labour Law Barrister in Doyles Guide 2023 to 2025.

Upon completing his studies and before joining Prince's Chambers, Lavesh clerked at both the Court of Final Appeal and the Court of Appeal. While working as a Judicial Assistant and Judicial Associate at both courts, he assisted in a wide range of matters. He continues to assist at the Court of Appeal on a part-time basis.

Lavesh was a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Law (Hong Kong Campus), from 2020 to 2025, and has previously served as a member of the HK45 and CIArb (EAB) YMG committees.

Rankings

2021 – 2026	Legal 500 Asia Pacific – Commercial Disputes (Leading Junior)
2023 – 2026	Doyle's Guide Leading Employment & Labour Law Barrister
2026	LexisNexis® 40 UNDER 40 Awards – Asia and Hong Kong

Professional qualifications

2026	Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
2022	HKIAC Tribunal Secretary Training Programme
2017	Hong Kong Bar Association Convention Against Torture Training and Accreditation Programme
2017	Barrister, Hong Kong
2014	Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

Judicial clerkships

2021 – ongoing	Part-time Judicial Associate at the Court of Appeal
2015 – 2016	Judicial Associate to the Honourable Mr Justice Barma
2014 – 2015	Judicial Assistant at the Court of Final Appeal

Education

2014	Master of Laws, London School of Economics
2013	Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, City University of Hong Kong
2012	Bachelor of Laws, City University of Hong Kong
2010	Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Management, University of Huddersfield

Arbitration Practice

Lavesh has acted as counsel in the following arbitrations or arbitration related matters:

- HKIAC arbitration for a US$27m dispute.
- HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong, between Austrian and Lebanese nationals and a Hong Kong company concerning a contract for the sale of shares governed by Hong Kong law.
- HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong for a claim relating to a breach of a distribution agreement.
- ICC arbitration concerning claims, exceeding HK$100m, for payment under a distributorship agreement arising out of the supply of aircraft parts against one of the largest aircraft manufacturers.
- HKIAC arbitration concerning breaches of investment agreements.
- HKIAC arbitration in respect of a US$88m claim for breaches of a financing agreement and for asset stripping.
- Advised on enforcement and set-aside applications.

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Litigation (selected cases)

Tort

- *Samantha Jane Bradley v Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons Ltd* [2026] HKCFA 2. A landmark decision affirming that the tort of harassment exists under Hong Kong common law, and that a corporate entity cannot be a victim of the tort. The Court of Final Appeal extended the Broadmoor jurisdiction to allow corporate entities to seek injunctions to provide for a safe workplace.

- *Mary Kay Inc & Ors v Zhejiang Tmall Network Co Ltd* [2022] HKCA 360, application for leave to appeal against an order setting aside service concerning claims for trademark infringement (s20 TMO defence), passing off, and internet intermediary joint tortfeasorship (appeared with Mr Sebastian Hughes).

- *X and Y v Z* [2020] HKCFI 826. This was an injunction case relating to tortious intimidation and harassment. Coleman J clarified and expanded upon the necessary elements of the tort of harassment.

Commercial / Civil Litigation

- *Deng John Cong v Okay Property Agency Ltd*, HCA 1268/2022, a contractual and tortious claim.

- *Oon Kim Koh v Quest Investments Ltd & Anor* [2025] HKDC 1196, opposing a leave to appeal application. Promissory note case.

- *Maurizio de Gasperis & Anor v Shanghai Tang Investment Holding Company Ltd & Ors* [2025] HKCFI 2372, 5-day trial, breach of contract.

- *Sze Fung Engineering Ltd v Trevi Construction Co Ltd* [2025] HKCA 278, appeal concerning the construction of a 'back-to-back' payment clause (appeared with Mr Phillip Rompotis).

- *Tobrix BV v HongKong Tripod Ltd* [2024] HKCFI 2124, 8-day trial concerning sale of goods (appeared with Mr Phillip Rompotis).

- *Kushaev & Ors v Sfeir & Anor* (unrep. HCA 1022/2019), resisting summary judgment.

- *GEM Yield Bahamas Limited v National Arts Group Holdings Ltd*, unrep., HCA 846/2022, O14 summary judgment for breach of a share subscription agreement (appeared with Mr Phillip Rompotis).

- *Sze Fung Engineering Ltd v Trevi Construction Co Ltd* [2023] HKCFI 419, 8-day trial concerning the construction of Black Point Power Station (appeared with Mr Phillip Rompotis).

- *Jindong Securities Ltd v Golden World Motors (International) Ltd* [2021] 5 HKC 87, an application to set aside the defendant's counterclaim judgment and to reinstate the plaintiff's claim (out of time), pursuant to O25 RDC.

- *Hugo Boss Trade Mark Management Gmbh & Ors v The Britain Boss International Co Ltd & Anor* [2021] HKCA 1496, for leave to appeal to the CFA.

Company / Winding-up

- *Re New Grand Coach Ltd* [2025] HKCFI 4942, substantive hearing opposing an application for proprietary, mareva and ss.728 and 729 Companies Ordinance injunctive relief.

- *Re Hongkong Bai Yuan International Business Co Ltd* [2022] CLC 295, opposed a winding-up petition and argued that the English / Singaporean approach should be adopted in the insolvency context in Hong Kong.

- *Recovery Vehicle 1 Pte Ltd v Total Alliance Investments Ltd* [2020] HKCLC 1129, application to winding up a company; awarded indemnity costs.

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- *Re Asia Master Logistics Limited* [2020] 2 HKLRD 423, successfully obtained a winding-up order, where Deputy High Court Judge William Wong SC, in obiter, stated how a court should deal with arbitration dispute resolution clauses in winding-up/insolvency proceedings, with reference to the Salford-Lasmos principle. This case was cited by the Privy Council in *Sian Participation v Halimeda International* [2024] UKPC 16.

- *Sea Trader International Ltd v Straits Bunkering Pte Ltd* [2019] HKCFI 135, successfully resisted an application for an injunction to prevent the presentation of a winding-up petition.

SFC

- *SFC v Superb Summit International Group Ltd & Ors* [2025] HKCFI 2682, *Carecraft* procedure.

Injunction

- *Re New Grand Coach Ltd* [2025] HKCFI 1011, case management hearing for opposing an application for proprietary, mareva and ss.728 and 729 Companies Ordinance injunctive relief.

- *Friendship Shipping and Trading SA v IVL Dhunseri Polyester Company SAE* [2024] HKCFI 3180, resisting an application for an anti-suit injunction, where the Court stated that the prima facie test is applicable in deciding to grant an anti-suit injunction when there are two plausible arbitration agreements (appeared with Mr Eugene Kwok).

- *Techtronic Product Development Ltd & Anor v Fauteux* [2024] 2 HKLRD 737, an application for leave to appeal against an order granting leave from the implied undertaking.

- *Hua She Asset Management (Shanghai) Company Ltd v Gao Yan & Anor* [2023] 4 HKLRD 575, an application by a 3rd party for injunctive relief to prevent the presentation of a bankruptcy petition (on the basis that the judgment debt was purportedly obtained by fraud) (appeared with Mr Sonny Payne – Solicitor Advocate).

- *Han Jaejoon v Lee Sang Young* [2023] HKCFI 2202, application for the continuation of the injunction summons.

- *X and Y v Z* [2020] HKCFI 826. This case dealt with the appropriate threshold for injunctive relief in harassment cases and the legal principles regarding gagging, anonymity and disclosure orders in harassment and intimidation cases.

- *J-Land Korea Co Ltd v Choi Fung Trade Ltd* [2020] HKDC 1009, application for the continuation of a freezing order.

- *ACT Resources International Ltd v Hong Kong Energy Resources* [2020] HKCFI 232, application for a freezing order (appeared with Mr Sebastian Hughes).

Shipping

- *Friendship Shipping and Trading SA v IVL Dhunseri Polyester Company SAE* [2024] HKCFI 3180, resisting an application for an anti-suit injunction, where the Court stated that the prima facie test is applicable in deciding to grant an anti-suit injunction when there are two plausible arbitration agreements (appeared with Mr Eugene Kwok).

- *Natwest Markets Plc & Anor v The Owner of the Ship or Vessel "Angelic Glory"* [2023] HKCFI 644, regarding the interpretation of a court order.

- *The "Angelic Glory"* [2022] 1 HKLRD 87, appeal regarding the "well-founded" threshold under O75, r21(7) RHC.

- *Re Asia Master Logistics Limited* [2020] 2 HKLRD 423, a shipping dispute.

- *Sea Trader International Ltd v Straits Bunkering Pte Ltd* [2019] HKCFI 135, successfully resisted an application for an injunction to prevent the presentation of a winding-up petition.

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Employment

- *Ah-fat Jean Max v Xian Corp Limited* [2021] HKCFI 22, a dispute over the employment contract terms.

Costs

- *Friendship Shipping and Trading SA v IVL Dhunseri Polyester Company SAE* [2025] 2 HKC 307, costs application (appeared with Mr Eugene Kwok).
- *Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons Ltd v Samantha Bradley* [2023] 5 HKLRD 240, application for indemnity costs.

Contempt

- *SJ v Lou Tit Man* [2019] 2 HKLRD 1236, appeal against sentence (appeared with Ms Fanny Wong).
- *SJ v Chu Sui Ying & Ors* [2018] HKCFI 2396, Occupy Central Minibus Criminal Contempt (led by Mr Victor Dawes SC, Mr Jin Pao SC, and Mr Derek Chan SC).
- *SJ v Lou Tit Man* [2018] 4 HKLRD 438, Occupy Central Minibus Criminal Contempt (led by Mr Victor Dawes SC, Mr Jin Pao SC, and Mr Derek Chan SC).

Publications and editorial experience

2020 - present	Contributing Editor Hong Kong Civil Procedure (White Book) – O.59 RHC
2026 (forthcoming)	Contributing Author Employment Law in Hong Kong
2024	HK Lawyer Article titled 'The Impact of Arbitration and Exclusive Jurisdiction Clauses on Insolvency Proceedings: A Brief Comparative Analysis' (together with Mr Franklin Koo)
2023	HK Lawyer Article titled 'Forgery, a Null and Void Arbitration Clause, a Matter Best Left for The Courts or The Arbitral Tribunal?'
2022	Contributing Author Company Law in Hong Kong: Insolvency 2022
2021	Contributing Author LexisNexis HK Practical Guidance Practice Notes on Contract Law
2015	Research Assistant, City University of Hong Kong – Legal English Project (https://legalenglish.hk/)
2015	Assisted The Honourable Mr Justice Fok, as a Judicial Assistant of the Court of Final Appeal, in the preparation of "Money Laundering: A Comparative Perspective"
2015	Assisted The Honourable Chief Justice Ma as a Judicial Assistant on his speech titled: "A Grail for All Seasons: Magna Carta"
2012	19th Willem C. Vis International Commercial Moot and 9th Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Moot 2011- 2012 (2012) 16 International Trade and Business Law Review, pp. 433-552
2010 – 2011	Editor of the City University of Hong Kong Law Review
2010 – 2012	Member of the City University of Hong Kong Law Review

Appointments and memberships

2023 – 2024	HK45 Committee Member
2022 – 2023	Member of the Young Member Group Committee of the East Asia Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
2022	HKIAC Tribunal Secretary Programme
2021 – present	HK45 Member
2021 – present	Young ICCA Member
2020 – 2025	Visiting Lecturer at the University of Law
2020 – 2022	Co-opted member of the Young Member Group Committee of the East Asia Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
2019	Part-time tutor at the University of Hong Kong
2018 – 2024	Member of the Indian Chamber of Commerce
2014 – present	Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

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Scholarships and prizes

2013	Assistant coach to the City University of Hong Kong's 20th Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team (1st Place)
2012	City University of Hong Kong oralist and winner of the David Hunter Award at the Ninth Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot (1st Place)
2012	City University of Hong Kong representative and recipient of an Honourable Mention for Best Claimant and Respondent's Memorandum at the Ninth Willem C. Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot
2012	Moot Court Prize from the City University of Hong Kong
2012	Certificate for Outstanding Performance in Mooting from the City University of Hong Kong
2012	City University of Hong Kong representative at the 3rd WAIDM- ACICA Australia Vis Pre-Moot (1st Place)
2012	City University of Hong Kong representative at the Shanghai Vis Pre-Moot (1st Place at the Shanghai e-Moot and Best Team Oralist at the Shanghai e-Moot)
2012	Dean's List

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