

Keating Chambers
15 Essex Street
London
WC2R 3AA

DX: LDE1045

T +44 (0)20 7544 2600
F +44 (0)20 7544 2700

keatingchambers.com

KEATING
CHAMBERS



CHIN LENG LIM

Call: 2011

clim@keatingchambers.com

Clerks Details

Declan Redmond

T: +44 (0)20 7544 2616

E: dredmond@keatingchambers.com

Rob Frankish

T: +44 (0)20 7544 2604

E: rfrankish@keatingchambers.com

Oliver Goldsmith

T: +44 (0)20 7544 2701

E: ogoldsmith@keatingchambers.com

Practice overview

Chin Lim is based in Hong Kong. He has advised and acted for corporations and individuals in complex commercial disputes, and for governments, corporations and individuals in foreign investment and a variety of treaty matters. He has particular experience in negotiating, drafting and interpreting treaties, and in advising on how commercial and investment treaties apply to and affect contractual obligations, investments and business operations. This has included advice on territorial application or where reservations, declarations and treaty succession issues have been involved. He has been nominated to act as arbitrator on various occasions and accepts appointments through Chambers.

Types of work have included:

- Sole arbitrator, institutional arbitration involving consultancy services in the energy sector
- Acting for a global fund in resisting the recognition and enforcement of a foreign judgment in a Middle Eastern conduit jurisdiction (hundreds of millions USD)
- Acting for a mining company in a shareholder dispute in DIFC-LCIA arbitration (tens of millions USD)
- Advice on the arbitration agreement in an international distribution contract
- Advice on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods
- Advising on a cross-border investment in the Far East
- Advice on sovereign sanctions and their application to commercial dealings
- Advice on a Far Eastern bilateral treaty

- Expert opinion on private international law in a complex commercial and financial dispute in the Far East (tens of millions USD)
- Advising a national government on issues arising from on-going multilateral commercial and investment treaty negotiations
- Advising the Hong Kong Commerce Secretary for the Committee on Pacific Economic Co-operation
- Advising a national government in a maritime boundary/energy resource matter
- Acting as counsel for a national government, particularly in commercial and investment treaty negotiations
- Acting as a secretariat lawyer at the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva, dealing with both sovereign and private claims following the first Gulf War

Chin is also called to the Singapore Bar. He is admitted to the HKIAC's List of Arbitrators in Hong Kong and also empaneled by the KLRCA/AIAC in Kuala Lumpur, SHIAC in Shanghai, and the SCIA in Shenzhen. He combines practice with holding, since 2017, the Choh-Ming Li Professorship of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His publications include the forthcoming Cambridge Companion to International Arbitration with a Foreword by Lord Neuberger, and the broadly cited work, Lim, Ho and Paparinskis, *International Investment Law and Arbitration* with a Foreword by Emmanuel Gaillard (Cambridge University Press, 2018). Chin is a Visiting Professor at King's College London and an Honorary Senior Fellow of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law. He attends UNCITRAL Working Group III's current deliberations on behalf of an observer entity.

Current Appointments

2019 – Honorary Senior Fellow, British Institute of International and Comparative Law
 2017 – Choh-Ming Li Professor of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong
 2009 – Visiting Professor of Law, King's College London.

Visiting Appointments

2015 – Lionel A. Sheridan Visiting Professor of Law, National University of Singapore.
 2013 – Visiting Scholar-in-Residence, World Trade Organisation, Geneva.

Seminar, Publications & Papers

A regular contributor to the Law Quarterly Review, Chin's publications discuss international arbitration and commercial disputes, and also commercial and treaty developments in Hong Kong, China and the Far East:

- The Cambridge Companion to International Arbitration with a Foreword by Lord Neuberger (Cambridge University Press, currently in press) (editor)
- International Investment Law and Arbitration by Lim, Ho and Paparinskis with a Foreword by Emmanuel Gaillard (Cambridge University Press, First Edition, 2018), xlv + 536 pp
- Alternative Visions of the International Law on Foreign Investment (Cambridge University Press, 2016), ed., xxxv + 494 pp. (editor)
- Law of the Hong Kong Constitution with Forewords by the Hon. Geoffrey Ma C.J. and the Hon. Mr. Andrew Li (Sweet & Maxwell, Second Edition, 2015), Co-General Editor with J.M.M. Chan S.C. (hon.) of the Hong Kong Bar and co-author, cx + 1274 pp
- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (Cambridge University Press, 2012), with Deborah K. Elms & Patrick Low (eds.), xvii + 337 pp (editor)
- 'Taming Leviathan as Merchant', World Trade Review, 19 Aug 2019 (with Mitsuo Matsushita of the Tokyo Bar) (Cambridge University Press)
- 'The Hong Kong Extradition Bill' (2020) 136 Law Quarterly Review 19-23
- 'The Function of the Transnational Chinese Contract', (2019) 20 Journal of World Investment & Trade 313-334 (Brill Publishers)
- 'Fragrant Harbour and Oyster Mirror: Beijing's Investment Treaty Policy toward Hong Kong and Macao', 2015-2016 Year Book of International Investment Law and Policy (Oxford

University Press, 2018), 375-411

- 'The Sino-British Treaty and the Hong Kong Booksellers Affair', (2016) 132 Law Quarterly Review 552-556 (Sweet & Maxwell)
- 'The Convergence of China's Foreign and Domestic Investment Regimes and China's Investment Treaty Commitments', (2015) 32 Journal of International Arbitration 461-493, with Seung Chong
- 'International Investment Arbitration', Oxford Bibliographies in International Law, with J. Ho (Oxford University Press)
- 'Britain's "Treaty Rights" in Hong Kong', (2015) 131 Law Quarterly Review 348-354 (Sweet & Maxwell)
- 'Injuncting Foreign Sovereigns in Aid of Arbitration', (2014) 130 Law Quarterly Review 193-197 (Sweet & Maxwell)
- 'Foreign Sovereign Counterparties to Hong Kong Contracts', (2014) 9 Capital Markets Law Journal 157-176 (Oxford University Press)
- 'Beijing's "Congo" Interpretation, Commercial Implications', (2012) 128 Law Quarterly Review 6-10 (Sweet & Maxwell)
- 'Absolute Immunity for Sovereign Debtors in Hong Kong', (2011) 127 Law Quarterly Review 495-499 (Sweet & Maxwell)
- 'State Immunity in Post-Handover Hong Kong', (2011) 127 Law Quarterly Review 159-162 (Sweet & Maxwell)

Lectures and speaking engagements:

- 'Arbitration in Asia: Opportunities and Challenges', 39 Essex Chambers, London, 29 January 2020
- 'International Tribunals in Interesting Times - A Fireside Chat with Elias and Lim', University College London, 28 January 2020
- 'Some Far Eastern Perspectives on Investment Arbitration - Options for Structural Reform', sideline event, the 38th Session of UNCITRAL Working Group III, Vienna International Centre, 22 January 2020
- 'Investment Law and the New Frontier', Dutch Arbitration Day organised by the DAA at the Hermitage, Amsterdam, 10 October 2019
- Chair, 'Investment Arbitration: Issues and Insights', British Institute of International & Comparative Law, held at CUHK's Graduate Law Centre, Bank of America Tower, Central, Hong Kong, 22 July 2019
- Honorary Speaker, 'The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership', Asian International Arbitration Centre/Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, 27 June 2019
- Chair, 'Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement', Jiaotong University, Shanghai, 12 June 2019
- 'A Time When Malaysia Caught the Attention of the International Money Lawyers', dinner talk organised jointly by the Malaysian and Singapore Chambers of Commerce, Hong Kong, 27 May 2019
- 'The Belt and Road Initiative and Global Dispute Resolution', British Institute of International & Comparative Law, Russell Square, 2 May 2019
- 'Investment Arbitration and the Belt and Road Initiative', CIETAC, Xi'an, People's Republic of China, 24 February 2019
- Chair, Debate, ISDS Reform Conference, Hong Kong Department of Justice and the AAIL, Conventions and Exhibitions Centre, Hong Kong, 13 February 2019
- 'Utopian and Dystopian Possibilities for the World Trade Organisation', Tokyo University, 9 January 2019
- 'Hong Kong's and Macao's "Succession" to PRC Treaties', The Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators, 9 April 2018
- 'Overlapping Investment Treaties', GAR Live, Hong Kong, 19 October 2017
- Chair, 'Impact of the Belt and Road Initiative', Joint RAA-HKIAC Russia-Hong Kong Business Summit, HKIAC, Hong Kong, 11 May 2017

- ‘Investor-State Dispute Settlement’, New York University Law School and the United Nations University, Tokyo, 24 November 2016
- Keynote, ‘Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead - Thirty Years of Investment Arbitration in Asia’, IBA Annual Conference, Asia-Pacific Arbitration Group, Washington D.C., 21 September 2016
- ‘Investment Arbitration in Asia’, Asia-Pacific Dispute Resolution Summit, Hong Kong, 27 September 2016
- ‘The Experience with Investment Arbitration and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement’, IBA Asia Pacific Arbitration Group, held at the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, 3 June 2016
- ‘The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement’s Investment Treaty Clauses’, Tokyo University, 14 December 2015
- ‘Foreign Sovereign Immunity’, IBA Litigation Committee and Asia-Pacific Regional Forum, IBA Annual Conference, Vienna, 5 October 2015
- ‘Overcoming the Geneva Impasse’, at the invitation of the Malaysian Central Bank Governor and OMFIF, Nineteenth ASEAN Finance Ministers’ and Related Meetings, Kuala Lumpur, 20 March 2015
- ‘The Strange Vitality of Custom in the International Protection of Property, Contracts and Commerce’, Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina, 31 October 2014

Education & Professional Career

Education & Professional Qualifications

B.C.L. Oxon (Univ. Coll.); LL.M. Harvard, Kathryn Aguirre Worth Memorial Scholar; Ph.D. Notts, Law Scholar & Tutor; LL.B. Buckingham; Of the Middle Temple, Barrister (Call: 2011); Advocate & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore, currently non-practising (Call: 2012).

Career

- Lecturer, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, 1993
- Lecturer, Queen Mary & Westfield College, 1999
- United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva, 1999
- Assistant Professor, subsequently Associate Professor, National University of Singapore, 2001
- Singapore Attorney-General’s Chambers, 2003
- Professor of Law, University of Hong Kong 2007, sometime Associate Dean and occasionally Acting Dean, member of Court and the Senate
- Choh-Ming Li Professor, Professor of Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2017

Other

FSI Arb, MCI Arb.

Languages

Malay

Indonesian (Bahasa)

Knowledge of certain Chinese dialects (spoken only)