

Thomas S. T. So

Partner

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"So does a lot of China-related matters and disputes. Clients find him a good person to work with and very personable." Benchmark Asia Pacific (2014)

Thomas So is a partner of Mayer Brown JSM. He advises on shareholders- and equity-related disputes, property-related litigation, libel litigation and media-related litigation work, and litigation and arbitration in the PRC. He represents banks and financial institutions, property developers and corporations as well as Mainland China enterprises on securities- and equity-related disputes. He is dually qualified in both Hong Kong and Mainland China and provides legal support to clients and advise on cross-border dispute strategy in both jurisdictions.

Thomas has acted as Arbitrator and Mediator in shareholders and other disputes. He is on a number of panel of arbitrators in Asia. He has also acted as Deputy Judge at the District Court (18/11/2002-13/12/2002) and Temporary Deputy Registrar at the High Court (8/12/2003-10/1/2004). He is a China-Appointed Attesting Officer (appointed by the Ministry of Justice of PRC). He is currently the President of the Law Society of Hong Kong.

Thomas was praised by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2010/2011* for providing "sound knowledge" and "practical solutions" to clients. *Chambers Asia Pacific 2011* describes Thomas is "instrumental in many cross-border cases". Thomas speaks English, Cantonese and Mandarin.

1.1 Experience

- Defended one of the leading securities firms in Hong Kong in a liquidation-and-shareholders' dispute suit
- Acted for property developers in a high-profile case that went to the Court of Appeal involving arguments on the acceptable method of tender and available remedies to the winning party in lieu of a specific performance order

- Acted for a listed company in a Hong Kong arbitration in which the other side was a PRC corporation involving a claim of over HK\$400 million. The governing law of the contract was PRC law
- Acted for a public utility institution in Hong Kong in a HKIAC arbitration. Represented them in relation to joint-venture disputes amounting to approximately RMB100 million
- Acted for a leading newspaper in relation to a prosecution laid under Section 23 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. The case eventually went to the Privy Council in London
- Advised and managed one of the top Hong Kong financial institutions on its litigation portfolio in the Mainland China covering Shanghai and Guangdong provinces

1.2 Education

- Tsinghua University Beijing, Doctor of Laws
- The University of Hong Kong, LLM
- The College of Law, Guildford
- China University of Political Science and Law, LLB
- University of Hull, England, LLB

1.3 Admissions

- PRC
- England and Wales
- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- A.C.T. Australia

1.4 Activities

- Arbitrator, Panel of Tianjin Arbitration Commission
- Arbitrator, Zhuhai Court of International Arbitration
- International Mediator & Arbitrator Panel, IIAM
- Approved Mediator, Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association
- Member, Administrative Appeals Board
- Mediators, World Trade Center Macau Arbitration Center
- Arbitrator, CIETAC
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member, Court of Final Appeal Rules Committee
- Founding Arbitrator Member, Club Espanol del Arbitraje (China Chapter)
- Accredited Mediator and Arbitrator, Panel of HKIAC
- Accredited Mediator, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre
- Accredited Mediator, Hong Kong Mediation Centre

- Accredited Mediator, Panel of the Law Society of Hong Kong
- President and Council Member, The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Director, The Law Society of Hong Kong Publication Limited
- Member, Mainland Business Advisory Committee of Hong Kong Trade Development Council
- Arbitrator, Panel of Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration
- Arbitrator, Panel of South China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission / Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration
- Arbitrator, Panel of Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission
- Arbitrator, Panel of Wei Hai Arbitration Commission
- Arbitrator, Panel of Nanjing Arbitration Commission
- Arbitrator, Panel of Law Society of Hong Kong

1.5 News & Publications

- "Supreme People's Court Guiding Case No. 37 extends time limit for bringing enforcement action on a foreign-related arbitration award in mainland China," Mayer Brown JSM Legal Update, 19 April 2016
- "Hong Kong Law Society Calls for Overhaul to Make it Claiming Money Easier for Civil Case Winners," South China Morning Post, 14 August 2015
- "PRC Laws No Excuse for Non-compliance with SFC Requests," Mayer Brown JSM Legal Update, 5 June 2014
- "Suzhou Court Refuses to Enforce CIETAC Shanghai Award," Mayer Brown JSM Legal Update, 17 July 2013
- "Latest Development in CIETAC Arbitration," Mayer Brown JSM Legal Update, 10 May 2013
- "New Amendments to PRC Civil Procedure Law Aimed at Increasing Efficiency, Transparency and Parties' Autonomy," Mayer Brown JSM Legal Update, 17 January 2013
- "Arbitration Alignment," Asian Legal Business, May 2012
- "The new CIETAC Arbitration Rules 2012," Hong Kong Lawyer, May 2012
- "New CIETAC Arbitration Rules 2012," Mayer Brown JSM Legal Update, 16 March 2012
- "The American Lawyer Litigation Department of the Year 2012 Finalist," Mayer Brown Brochure, 14 February 2012
- "Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of Mainland and of the HKSAR: Does it Solve All the Problems?," Hong Kong Lawyer, January 2007
- "Defaming the Dead," Hong Kong Lawyer, August 2006
- "The Reciprocal Enforcement Of Judgments In Commercial Matters Between Hong Kong And Mainland China," JSM Email Legal Update, 2006
- "論香港與內地法院間對判決的相互承認及執行," China Lawyer, 25 April 2005

- "The Recognition and Enforcement of Civil Judgments between the Mainland and Hong Kong," *Hong Kong Lawyer*, April 2005
- "論香港與內地法院間對判決的相互承認及執行," *Hebei Law Science* (《河北法學》第2期), 5 February 2005
- "香港民事訴訟中的款項繳存法院制度," *Studies in Law and Business* (《法商研究》第21卷), 30 September 2004
- "沒有法定最低資本額的香港公司," 清華大學商法國際會議論文集, 1 September 2004
- "香港民事訴訟中的訴訟費擔保制度," 《現代法學》, 28 August 2004

1.6 Events

- Importance of IP protection in foreign investments, 26-28 March 2014
- Greater China Arbitration Forum: 海峡两岸投资争端解决机制: 现状与未来, 14 October 2013 - 16 October 2013
- Seminar on Hong Kong's Legal Services, 30 May 2013
- Doing Business in the PRC: Risks, Precautions and Dispute Resolution Options, 17 JANUARY 2013
- "Panel discussion on Mediation and Labour Disputes at the conference of the Mediation in Hong Kong," The Way Forward Seminar, 1 December 2007
- Seminar on Mediation Skills for Hong Kong Management Association, 30 November 2007
- Presentation to Bank of China staff on Corporate Difficulties and Security Enforcement in Hong Kong, 22 October 2007
- "Defaming the Dead," Speaker at IBA Conference in Singapore, 15 October 2007
- Arbitration & Mediation course for Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators, 30 April 2007
- Presentation to SFC on securities related litigation matters, 28 March 2007
- Seminar on Privacy and Freedom of Press for Sing Tao Group editorial staff, 7 February 2007
- Attending Asia M&A 2007 Panel Discussion regarding Special Considerations in M&A related Litigation in transactions between HK and the Mainland, 1 February 2007
- Workshop on Mediation Skills to Building Department on behalf of Hong Kong Mediation Centre, 28 September 2006
- Seminar on Introduction on Media Law to Sing Tao Group staff, 26 April 2006
- Seminar for Hong Kong News Executives' Association on Media Law, 7 January 2006
- Anti-Corruption Seminar to Levi Strauss & Co, 23 September 2005
- Seminar on Employment Ordinance to Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, 15 July 2005

- Seminar on Effective Receivables Management and Debt Recovery in the PRC for Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation, 5 March 2004

1.7 Accolades

- Leading Individual - China (International Firms), Dispute Resolution – *Chambers Asia Pacific* (2011-2017)
- Local Disputes Star (Hong Kong) - Arbitration, General Commercial, White Collar Crime – *Benchmark Asia Pacific* (2014)
- "responsive, practical, a super adviser and sees the bigger picture" – *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* (2012)