

**Name :** Ooi Zhao Rong

**Nationality:** Chinese (Hong Kong)

**Country of Residence:** Hong Kong SAR, People's Republic of China

**Language(s): Spoken:** English, Cantonese, Mandarin  
**Written:** English, Chinese

**Practice Area:** **Private Wealth & Trusts, International Trade, Dispute Resolution, Financial Services, Arbitration**

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**Profession:** Partner – Ince & Co



Ooi Zhao Rong is a seasoned commercial disputes resolution lawyer. He provides strategic advice to state-owned enterprises, companies (both listed and private), financial institutions, insurers and UHNWIs.

### **Bio**

Zhao Rong's diverse commercial practice covers commercial litigation, international commercial arbitration, private wealth, financial services, offshore markets, and international trade. He frequently advises companies, private equity funds, banks, directors and shareholders in complex, high value, multi-jurisdictional disputes.

He is qualified to practise law in Hong Kong SAR, Singapore, England & Wales, the British Virgin Islands and Ireland. He is also a CEDR accredited mediator, a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (FAIADR), Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc (FAMINZ) and a full member (STEP) of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. In addition to representing parties at proceedings, he also accepts appointment as an arbitrator. He is a panel arbitrator of several arbitral institutions.

### **Experience (including matters handled at previous firms)**

#### **LITIGATION**

- advised the majority directors (and shareholders) of a foreign-branded convenience store chain (market leader in the PRC) in resisting an application for the appointment of inspectors to examine the Company's affairs brought by the minority directors (and shareholders)

- advised the owners of a leading Hong Kong F&B conglomerate in disputes brought by their commercial partners in the PRC
- defended a Chinese meal delivery service provider, backed by a Chinese tech giant, in a valuation dispute brought by dissenting shareholders following a competitor's buyout
- advised Asian tycoons in relation to a shareholding dispute brought by an estranged family member under the BVI just and equitable winding up regime
- advised a private equity fund in a limited partnership agreement dispute with one of its former limited partner
- advised the Hong Kong branch of a Chinese bank on asset tracing and enforcement proceedings in various jurisdictions against a defaulting co-guarantor whose parent company had filed for Chapter 11 protection in the US
- advised a company in a claim against a global bank in relation to a breach of the mortgagee's duties under a bridging loan facility. Reported judgment: *Beckett vs Deutsche Bank* [2007] SGHC 153
- successfully defended an application for summary judgment brought by a media and investors' relations consultancy against a Hong Kong listed Chinese conglomerate (a leader in the education sector) relating to the grant of stock options

## **ARBITRATION**

- advised a Fortune Global 500 Chinese electrical appliance manufacturer, listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, in an arbitration against a Swedish multinational home appliance manufacturer
- advised, as co-ordinating counsel, a Shenzhen headquartered Chinese multinational telecommunications equipment and systems company in a claim against an Uzbekistan company following the supply of telecommunication equipment in Tashkent
- sat as a co-arbitrator in HKIAC disputes between shareholders pertaining to the sale of medicinal products in the PRC
- Successfully advised a Chinese state-owned enterprise (as charterer) in LMAA arbitral proceedings in relation to claims brought by Greek shipowners following the early delivery of a number of vessels during the Global Financial Crisis (2009)
- Seeking injunctive relief from the Singapore courts in aid of arbitrations conducted abroad. Reported judgment: *The "Capaz Duckling"* [2007] 1 SLR 629 Following this significant judgment, the Singapore International Arbitration Act was amended to allow Singapore courts to grant standalone injunctive relief in aid of foreign arbitration proceedings
- Successfully acted as lead counsel in a Hong Kong ad hoc arbitration brought against a Chinese state-owned enterprise, represented the world's then largest private natural gas transportation company. Issues raised during the trial included procedural (seat of arbitration) and substantive legal issues

## **OFFSHORE AND PRIVATE WEALTH**

- advised a trust set up by a Chinese restaurateur in relation to disputes with a European private equity group

- advised UHNWIs in Hong Kong and PRC regarding the setting up of family offices and governance
- advised UHNWIs in contentious trusts and probate disputes

## **SHIPPING**

- successfully represented a Chinese brokerage before the Hong Kong High Court, in a claim for unpaid commission against the Hong Kong branch of a Chinese state-owned enterprise following the sale of various vessels. Reported judgment: *Better Marine International Ltd v Zhong Shan Co Ltd* [2016] HKCFI 2008; the decision was affirmed by the Court of Appeal in [2020] HKCA 145
- successfully advised a Chinese state-owned enterprise (qua charterer) on claims brought by Greek shipowners following the early redelivery of various vessels during the Global Financial Crisis (2009) in LMAA London arbitral proceedings
- regularly advised Chinese owners and charterers on various issues pertaining to FD&D, P&I, CLH risks, grounding, collision, oil pollution and casualty response in Hong Kong, English Courts and LMAA arbitral proceedings
- Sought injunctive relief from the Singaporean courts in aid of a foreign seated arbitration. Reported judgment: *The "Capaz Duckling"* [2007] 1 SLR 629

## **Appointments / Memberships**

### **Professional qualifications**

- CEDR Accredited Mediator (since 2013)
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) (since 2015)
- Full member (STEP), Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners (since 2022)
- Fellow, Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (since 2023)
- Fellow, Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc (AMINZ) (since 2023)

### **Public Service appointments**

- Deputy Head of Legal, Hong Kong Quality and Talent Migrants Association (since 2021)
- Member, District Services and Community Care Teams, Yuen Long District (Fung Cheung Sub - district)

### **Arbitral institutions** (in chronological order of appointment)

- Panel of international arbitrators, Shanghai International Arbitration Center (SHIAC)
- Member and panel arbitrator, Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA)
- Member, The London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Users' Council (Asia Pacific)
- Panel arbitrator, Beihai Asia International Arbitration Centre (BAIAC)
- Panel arbitrator, Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC)
- Mediator, Shenzhen Qianhai International Commercial Mediation Center
- Panel arbitrator, Asian International Arbitration Centre
- Panel arbitrator, BVI International Arbitration Centre (BVIAC)
- Distinguished Panel arbitrator, Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC)
- Adviser, Dalian High-Tech Zone Business & Commercial Issues Legal Mediation Center
- Panel arbitrator, Hainan International Arbitration Court
- Panel arbitrator, Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (TIAC)
- Panel arbitrator, Center for International Investment and Commercial Arbitration (CIICA)

- Panel arbitrator and mediator, Bangalore International Mediation, Arbitration and Conciliation Centre (BIMACC)
- Panel arbitrator, World Trade Center Macau Arbitration Center
- Panel arbitrator, Langfang Arbitration Commission (LAC)
- Panel of international arbitrators, Vancouver International Arbitration Centre (VanIAC)
- Panel arbitrator, The Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA)
- Panel arbitrator, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRC)
- Primary panel of arbitrator, Maldives International Arbitration Centre (MIAC)
- Internal database of arbitrators, The Mediation and Arbitration Center (Mauritius) (MARC)
- Panel mediator, AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRC)
- Reserve Panel of Arbitrators, Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
- Panel arbitrator, The Law Society of Hong Kong

### **Qualified**

- Solicitor, Hong Kong SAR (2016)
- Solicitor, England & Wales (2008)
- Advocate & Solicitor, Singapore (2006)
- Solicitor, British Virgin Islands (2018)
- Solicitor, Ireland (2024)

### **Education**

National University of Singapore, Bachelor of Laws (2005)

### **Accolades**

- Contentious Trusts & Estates Lawyer of the Year, Hong Kong (Lawyer Monthly Legal Awards 2022);
- Contentious Trusts & Estates Lawyers of the Year, Hong Kong (Global100 2023)
- Trust & Estates Litigation Law Firm of the Year Award Winner (The Lawyer Network Annual Awards Winner 2023)
- Zhao Rong is cited as a “key lawyer” of the firm by Legal 500 under the Dispute Resolution: International Arbitration (Hong Kong) section. His team has been described as “*strong*”, with “*excellent knowledge of the Asian market and players*” and “*can punch far above their weight*”. Legal 500 also described his team as “*impressive*”, “*hands-on*”, “*commercially astute*”, “*client friendly*” and a “*real powerhouse in international arbitration*”
- The Legal 500 Private Practice Powerlist 2023 - Arbitration Hong Kong (The Legal 500)

### **Articles**

- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师获委任为海南国际仲裁院的仲裁员
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师升任为泰国仲裁中心的杰出仲裁员
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣升格成国际信托及资产规划学会正式会员
- 英士香港合伙人黄昭荣律师获英属维尔京群岛国际仲裁中心(BVI IAC)聘任为仲裁员
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师获委任为亚洲国际仲裁中心仲裁员
- 英士北京首席代表劳玮裕和香港合伙人黄昭荣获深圳市前海国际商事调解中心聘任为调解员

- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师获委任为上海仲裁委员会仲裁员（境外）
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师获委任为北海亚洲国际仲裁中心仲裁员
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师获委任为泰国仲裁中心仲裁员
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师获新加坡海事仲裁院委任为仲裁员
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师获委任为香港优才及专才协会法律服务行业委员会副会长
- 劳玮裕律师和黄昭荣律师 受聘担任上海国际经济贸易仲裁委员会仲裁员
- 英士连续 21 年荣获《亚太法律 500 强》区内航运领域第一等律所
- **【英士法律实务 Q&A】** 家族信托
- 英士助力家族信托法律业务
- 法院针对谁应对船舶修理和改装合同负主要负责做出判决
- 美国制裁更新 – TNK Trading International S.A.
- 英士合伙人黄昭荣律师助力英属维尔京群岛法律业务
- 美国制裁更新 - Rosneft Trading S.A.
- 英士聘任黄昭荣律师担任合伙人，进一步拓展其大中华区团队