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Deirdre is a special counsel in the private client and tax team.

She focuses on trust and succession planning, wills drafting, family governance, as well as pre-marital asset protection planning. Deirdre advises high-net-worth individuals and families, private banks, as well as institutional trustees on wealth protection structuring.

Deirdre is listed as an 'up and coming' private wealth practitioner in Chambers' HNW Guide 2021-2022. She has been recommended as a leading private client lawyer in Who's Who Legal, as well as being in the 'Ones to Watch' list in Legal Week's Private Client Global Elite ranking. Furthermore, she has been recognised in Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2019-2023; Citywealth's 2019 Powerwomen List and Citywealth's 2019 Leading Private Client Lawyers list.

Track record

Establishing UK trusts and pre-nup agreements for HK family

Advised an ultra-high-net worth Hong Kong family on the set-up, under Jersey law, of various family and baby trusts to hold financial assets, properties (in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom) and listed company shares for asset protection on behalf of the children. Drafted pre-nuptial agreements and advised on the effectiveness of such agreements in Hong Kong as well as the treatment of trust assets on divorce.

Hong Kong entrepreneur

Advised a Hong Kong entrepreneur on the set up of a pre-IPO trust with application of the Virgin Islands Special Trust Act (VISTA) provisions to hold shares in his company which was to be listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX). Helped to devise guidelines on the membership to, and succession mechanism for, a committee with powers to appoint directors to the VISTA company; advised on the HKEX disclosure requirements for parties involved with the trust; further advised on the distribution mechanism for the minor beneficiary, as well as revised the Memorandum and Articles of Association of companies held directly and indirectly by the trust to enable tighter control.

Hong Kong client

Advised a Hong Kong client on the use of a trust governed by Hong Kong law to hold her business for succession planning; assisted with the formation of a Hong Kong company as private trust company to act as trustee of the family trust; as well as advised on the succession mechanism for membership to the trustee company.

Talks

- 'A Panel Discussion on Divorce - Proofing and Trust - Busting: Practical Measures for Trustees', STEP, Hong Kong - Nov 17, 2015

External publications

'How Enduring Power of Attorney works in Hong Kong and why it is useful' - Mar 2022, co-author

'Is it necessary to have a Chinese notarised will to deal with my assets in the mainland?' - Dec 2021, co-author

'Implementation of Common Reporting Standard in Hong Kong - Implications for Family Trust with a Private Trust Company as Trustee', Lexology - Dec 2016

'Wealth and Succession Planning: Lessons Learned From the Winding Up of Yung Kee Holdings Limited', Lexology - Mar 2016

'What does "property under my name" really mean?', Lexology - Dec 2015

'Passing your estate to a discretionary trust by will - pitfalls to avoid', Lexology - Oct 2015

Admissions

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, People's Republic of China, 2023
Hong Kong, 1995
England & Wales, 1995

Education

University of Cambridge, MA

College of Law, Guildford, LPC

City University, MBA

STEP Diploma in International Trust Management (Distinction)

Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners (STEP), Advanced Certificate in UK Tax for International Clients (Distinction)

Languages

Cantonese

English

Mandarin

Memberships

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), Hong Kong

Hong Kong Ballet Company, Governor and Honorary Secretary

Hong Kong Ballet Group, Board member

Agricultural and Fisheries Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government , Advisory Committee

War Memorial Pensions Appeal Board of the Hong Kong SAR Government, member

Key dates

Year joined: 2017

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