

Withers adds hotels and hospitality partner in Hong Kong

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International law firm Withers has expanded its Hotels and Hospitality practice by hiring corporate partner David Mallinson in Hong Kong. David joins the firm from Mayer Brown JSM's Hong Kong team.

David is recognised as one of the leading advisors of hotel operators and investors in the Asian market, representing clients on their transactions and developments in Hong Kong, China and across South-East Asia.

Having also worked as regional general counsel at Starwood Hotels and at World Sport Group, David has broad experience of the hospitality industry as well as in branding and sponsorship.

Robert Williams, Head of Withers Hotels and Hospitality group in Asia, comments: "David's arrival is a great result for us for a number of reasons. Primarily, he extends the reach and depth of our hotels group, giving us a senior and on-the-ground presence in north Asia. This is a direct response to client demand, and highlights the firm's commitment to our existing clients in Hong Kong and the wider region. David of course also brings many new contacts of his own, and will help us develop valuable new relationships. More broadly, David is an important addition to our Asian corporate team and international Sports practice."

David Mallinson comments: "I am delighted to be joining the Withers hotels team in Hong Kong. Robert's group and I share a real passion for the hospitality sector, and I am looking forward to working together and harnessing our extensive combined experience and contacts across Asia Pacific."

Withers launched its Hotels and Hospitality practice in March 2016 with the hire of Robert Williams, Justin Gross and their team. The practice has been very active in the Asia-Pacific region in the first half of 2016, advising Marriott International on a deal to establish its first JW Marriott and Edition hotels in Singapore, Pro-invest Group on an A\$300 million capital raise for its inaugural Australian hotel fund and SilverNeedle Hospitality Group on a three hotel lease deal with the Queensland Investment Corporation.

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