

CURRICULUM VITAE

MARIA ON

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Qualifications

- Admitted as a solicitor of the High Court of Hong Kong (May 2015).
- Admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand (June 2012).
- Master of Laws with Upper Second Class Honours at the University of Cambridge, Trinity Hall (2011).
- Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours at Victoria University of Wellington (2010).
- Bachelor of Commerce and Administration at Victoria University of Wellington, majoring in Accounting and Finance with an overall A average (2009).

Professional Experiences

Karas LLP (formerly known as Lipman Karas) (July 2018 – present) (Hong Kong)

- Position: Senior Associate (Litigation)
 - Role involves acting as the managing solicitor on files.
 - The scope of work has predominantly consisted of: (a) the preparation for and attendance at a 30 day trial in a valuation negligence claim; and (b) preparation for a 50 day trial (which settled the weekend prior) in an audit negligence claim.
 - The work has involved all aspects of trial preparation, including amendment of pleadings, witness statements, expert evidence, interlocutory applications, trial bundles, trial logistics, cross-examination notes and opening and closing submissions.

Stephenson Harwood (July 2014 – June 2018) (Hong Kong)

- Position: Solicitor (Litigation)
 - Role involved acting as the primary and managing associate on files (i.e. drafting court documents, working closely with counsel to prepare for trial and liaising with clients), drafting legal opinions on contentious matters and day to day management of files.
 - The scope of work included:
 - Equitable and restitutionary claims (ie dishonest assistance, knowing receipt and unjust enrichment);
 - Contractual disputes involving factoring arrangements and joint venture agreements;
 - Obtaining *Mareva* injunctions to freeze assets, receivership orders, Norwich Pharmacal orders;
 - Enforcement of arbitration awards / foreign judgments in Hong Kong;
 - Winding-up proceedings; and

- Advisory opinions to shipping clients and banks.
- Was seconded in 2015 to HSBC for seven months on a part-time basis (attached to the Commercial Banking Legal Department with focus on trade finance).

Chapman Tripp (August 2011 – June 2014) (New Zealand)

- Position: Solicitor (Litigation)
 - Role primarily involved trial preparation as both solicitor and barrister (i.e. pleadings, discovery, research, evidence, opening and closing submissions, etc).
 - The scope of work included:
 - Acting for receivers in recovery actions, including professional negligence claims against trustees, solicitors and auditors;
 - Winding-up proceedings, including advising liquidators and receivers on voidable transactions / priority claims;
 - Advising energy companies and large banks on compliance and contentious regulatory matters;
 - Appeals and judicial reviews against regulatory decisions;
 - Summary judgment (i.e. against a defaulting lessee) and strike out proceedings; and
 - Legal research and advising on a wide range of commercial areas (including on specific points of law, such as marshalling, betterment, quantum meruit and duties of care owed by trustees to third parties).

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Hong Kong

1. Represented the liquidators of China Forestry, a former Hong Kong-listed holding company of a group purporting to own extensive timber plantations in Mainland China, in an audit negligence claim seeking damages of over US\$100 million.
2. Represented the trustee of a litigation trust created following the collapse and reorganisation of the Sino-Forest Corporation, a former Canadian-listed company that purported to own forest assets in Mainland China, resulting in litigation in various jurisdictions against former directors, auditors and valuers.
3. Represented Companhia Sud Americana de Vapores SA in resisting the discharge of a 21M injunction and appealing the discharge of the injunction (heard in the Court of Final Appeal).
4. Represented Companhia Sud Americana de Vapores SA in applying to wind up a Hong Kong company and amending the winding up petition to include post-petition debts (heard in the Court of Appeal).
5. Represented PT First Media TBK in resisting the enforcement of a US\$130 million arbitral award (heard in the Court of Appeal).
6. Represented a major tenant of an industrial building in respect of a tenancy dispute in arbitration.
7. Represented an English company in arbitration for breaches of a joint venture agreement involving a WFOE operating in Mainland China.
8. Represented an international bank in respect of alleged breaches of equitable obligations.
9. Represented individuals / companies to recover monies lost in financial scams / fraud.

New Zealand

10. Represented the receivers of Capital + Merchant Finance Ltd, a failed finance company, in a professional negligence claim against a professional trustee company and a firm of solicitors.
11. Represented the receivers of North South Finance Limited, a failed finance company, in a professional negligence claim against a firm of solicitors and a breach of fiduciary duty claim against a director.
12. *Wellington International Airport Ltd & Ors v Commerce Commission* [2013] NZHC 3289 - represented Wellington International Airport Ltd, Powerco Ltd and Transpower Ltd in challenging the Commerce Commission's inputs into the weighted average cost of capital formula used to regulate revenue under the Commerce Act 1986.
13. *Nelson Forests Limited & Ors v Three Tuis Limited & Ors* [2013] NZHC 856 - represented the New Zealand Fire Service against a company and individual in recovering fire extinguishment costs.
14. Represented Independent Liquor in an action against a competitor in respect of anticompetitive practices in the sale of RTD (Ready To Drink) beverages.
15. Represented Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited in defending statutory and tortious claims (ie breach of the Fair Trading Act 1986 and negligent misstatement) brought by a major customer in respect of a (false) clostridium botulinum scare in baby formula.