

Michael Poon

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PROFILE: Michael is a PQE-3 dual-qualified native English and Cantonese-speaking lawyer, with commercial experience at all stages of the litigation process, from pleadings to appeals, in the Hong Kong courts. Apart from his burgeoning litigation experience, Michael has sharp intercultural and interpersonal awareness, having lived in Canada, Hong Kong, and Europe during his formative years.

EDUCATION

King's College London	Sept 2021 – Sept 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>LLM in International Tax Law (Merit)</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 15,000-word dissertation (awarded distinction): on the court's interpretation of the legal test to impugn tax-avoidance transactions in Hong Kong, comparing Hong Kong's approach with the England and Australia.	
City University of Hong Kong	Aug 2015 – May 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Juris Doctor (Merit) and PCLL (Pass)</i>	
The London School of Economics	Oct 2013 – Sept 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>M.Sc. Global History (Pass) and M.A. Global Studies¹</i>	
Simon Fraser University, Canada ²	Sept 2008 – May 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>B.A. History (3.3 GPA)</i>	

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

- Attorney, New York State Bar Association (admitted Jan 2021)
- Solicitor, the Law Society of Hong Kong (admitted Aug 2021)
- Solicitor, the Law Society of England and Wales (admitted May 2024)

EMPLOYMENT

Ravenscroft & Schmierer <i>Associate (Dispute Resolution)</i>	Aug 2021 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cyberfraud: acted for Dutch subsidiary of German company to successfully obtain proprietary injunction and Bankers Trust order relating to US\$1mn fraudulent cross-border transfer; gathered and reviewed evidence from client, draft affirmations, and appeared ex- and inter-partes before Deputy Judge in High Court to make oral submissions.• HCA 354/2015: acted for plaintiff in successful adverse possession claim in High Court against developer concerning plot of land in the business district: drafted indexes, chronologies, collated documents for case management (CMCs, PTR), prepared trial bundles in accordance with relevant practice directions, prepared witness and expert evidence, liaised with client, witnesses and opposing counsel.• HCCW 450/2021: successfully opposed petition for US\$500,000 indebtedness to wind up company on basis that respondent to petition is a non-party.• DCCJ 152/2020: acted for owners of a 20-story commercial/residential building in defending claim for unpaid renovation works: successfully set aside initial default judgment entered against client on basis of improper service of proceedings; subsequent application to dismiss entire action on basis of improper renewal of writ before Master and appeal of Master's decision to District Court judge; gathered and reviewed evidence from client, drafted affirmations and instructed senior counsel.	

¹ Double degree program with the University of Vienna, Oct 2012 - Oct 2013.

² Semester exchanges in the Netherlands and Germany.

- International sale of goods: acted for Austrian MNC in defending US\$2mn breach of contract claim relating to sale of semi-conductors to German MNC buyer for use in automotive industry in Mainland China:
 - directly communicated and advised client's in-house legal team; drafted defence to pleadings;
 - successfully obtained security for cost at contested three-hour hearing: researched lines of legal argument, gathered evidence from client, and drafted affirmations and written submissions.
- [HCA 416/2023](#): acted for defendants to resist summary judgment by plaintiff to enter judgment for US\$2.5mn arising from written agreement to buy shares; reviewed clients' affirmations, counsel's submissions.
- Shareholders' dispute: acted for guarantor/majority shareholder of Hong Kong incorporated SPV used to finance property development in Thailand; prevented company deadlock, default of US\$350,000 loan obligation, winding-up of SPV by creditor, and court proceedings through negotiation and structuring sale share of guarantor/minority shareholder interest in SPV:
 - drafted instruments of sale shares; registration of sale shares with Companies Registry and handled attendant tax implications with Revenue authority.
- probate: obtained letters of grant/administration; resealed foreign grants of probate.

Paralegal (pending admission)

Elsa Law & Co., Solicitors³

Trainee Solicitor

July 2021 – Aug 2021

March 2020 – March 2021

- *Litigation*: successfully resisted enforcement of Lands Tribunal order in set aside proceedings for improper service leading to settlement; prepared bundles for hearings in accordance with relevant practice directions; collated documents for discovery.
- *Matrimonial*: liaised with expatriate and domestic clients concerning divorce, ancillary relief; drafting affirmations for contempt proceedings to compel production of documents; petitions for divorce; and pre-nuptial agreements.
- *Probate and Estate Planning*: drafted wills, power of attorneys; probate applications; resealed foreign grants.
- *Employment*: reviewed service agreements; employer-employee settlement agreements.

M.L. Tam & Co.

Trainee Solicitor

July 2018 – August 2019

- *Commercial*: conducted legal due diligence of sale and purchase of SME, drafted instrument of transfer for sale shares; reviewed articles, board minutes, NDAs; drafted shareholders' agreement, board minutes, loan agreements for lenders; agreements for start-ups (e.g., terms of use, privacy policy).
- *Real Estate*: all stages of conveyance in secondary market (e.g., drafted formal agreement, raised and answered requisitions, assignment, stamp duties, discharge mortgage; liaised with client).

DLA Piper, Hong Kong

Summer Vacation Scheme

June 2017 (4 weeks)

- *Litigation*: prepared written research memo on strength of unfair preference claim in a shareholders' dispute.
- *Tax*: verified documents in virtual data room; prepared internal note on discretionary trust matter.

³ Michael transferred to another boutique firm in Hong Kong serving private clients, both domestic and international, with a focus on general disputes and probate matters during his 2nd year of traineeship to seek opportunities in disputes work; in contrast to the corporate-focused boutique firm, M.L. Tam & Co., where he undertook the 1st year of his traineeship.

Swire Properties, Hong Kong
Temporary Legal Assistant

July 2016 – Aug 2016

- Researched and summarized recent changes to buildings legislation affecting company's property holdings to in-house legal team; created excel tables to highlight trends in legal spending for parent and subsidiaries.

Credit Suisse, Hong Kong
Work Experience Student

June 2016 (4 weeks)

- *Private Banking Department*: summarized external counsel legal opinions on cross-border loan facility requirements and created knowhow index for use by investment bank department.

Pinsent Masons, Hong Kong
Summer Vacation Placement

June 2015 (2 weeks)

- Proofread IPO agreements, announcements, prospectuses; answered client queries on legality of global transshipment.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

City University of Hong Kong
Teaching Fellow

Aug 2022 – Present

- Coach of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot team at the university; deliver lectures on international arbitration and supervising student assessment.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- DLA Piper Scholarship 2017 for best presentation in competition (approximately £1,000).
- University Grants Committee Government-Funded PCLL 2017 (approximately £12,000 towards tuition fee; awarded on basis of merit).

AUTHORSHIP

- [Update: Arbitration in Hong Kong](#)
- [New “No-Fault” Divorce Regime in England Takes Sting out of Split?](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Provide free legal advice to the public through government-funded [Free Legal Advice Scheme](#) as volunteer lawyer.

INTERESTS

- Outside the office and the court room, the tennis court is a frequent place where Michael can be found at the weekends, representing the local club in intra-league matches, or at home reading *The Financial Times*.
- Member of the Law Society Tennis Team.
- Self-study:
 - Completed [Born's International Arbitration Lectures](#) (nearly 100-hour lecture series delivered by Gary Born).
 - Currently, enrolled in [STEP Certificate in International Trust Management](#).