

**Name :** Ooi Zhao Rong

**Nationality:** Chinese (Hong Kong)

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**Language(s): Spoken:** English, Cantonese, Mandarin  
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**Practice Area:** Restructuring and Insolvency, Dispute Resolution, Shareholders' Dispute, Financial Services, Private Wealth & Trusts, Transportation, International Trade, Shipping

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Ooi Zhao Rong is a seasoned restructuring and insolvency lawyer. He provides strategic advice to international financial institutions, companies in distress across various sectors (both listed and private), and insolvency practitioners.

## **Bio**

Zhao Rong's major practice covers cross-border corporate insolvency, international arbitration, and private wealth. During his 18 years of practice, he frequently advises listed companies, private funds, international banks, and liquidators in complex, high value, multi-jurisdictional restructuring and insolvency related matters. To name a few, scheme of arrangement, appointment of restructuring officers, compulsory winding up, and asset tracing are all within his daily practice.

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 (TEP) 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)**

### **RESTRUCTURING AND INSOLVENCY**

- acted for the PRC administrators of a huge Chinese conglomerate to liaise with the liquidators of a Hong Kong subsidiary of the group in respect of the inter-company debts

- acted for a major Chinese bank in resisting a debtor company's parallel applications for appointment of provisional liquidators (for restructuring purposes) in Hong Kong and the BVI, and in resisting the debtor company's application for moratorium in Singapore
- 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
- acted for a Hong Kong listed company in a debt restructuring exercise, including an application for appointment of provisional liquidators (for restructuring purposes) before the Bermuda court. Resisted a winding up petition against the company and liaised with a group of bank creditors for a standstill agreement
- advised a Hong Kong listed company in a debt restructuring exercise, involving an intended scheme of arrangement application before the Hong Kong court. Resisted the creditors' claims in Hong Kong against the company and its subsidiaries
- acted for a Luxembourg company in resisting a bankruptcy application before the Luxembourg court and handled the corresponding appeal. Resisted various concurrent enforcement actions commenced by trustees, bondholders and security holders in multiple jurisdictions, including England, France, and Singapore
- acted for an overseas investor in presenting a winding up petition against a renowned multinational corporation in relation to overdue debentures in the midst of the debtor's listing application in the US
- advised a professional party in addressing the enquiries from the liquidators of a huge Chinese conglomerate, including an intended application for compulsory disclosure of documents and information
- acted for the liquidators of a Hong Kong company in administering the liquidation process. Advised on potential claims against the company's former creditors on the basis of voidable transactions
- acted for the liquidators of a Hong Kong company in an intended application for disclosure order against the former directors of the company
- acted for the liquidators of an offshore company in adjudicating a proof of debt filed by a creditor
- acted for a creditor in an appeal against the winding up order made by the Hong Kong court against a company listed in Hong Kong

## **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 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 (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
- 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)

## **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**

- Legal 500 Private Practice Inaugural Powerlist 2023 for Arbitration in Hong Kong
- 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*”