

DAVID ASHLEY SOUTHERN

**BARRISTER
SOLICITOR**

Background



David has held positions both in private practice and in-house as General Counsel of a multinational business. He qualified as a solicitor in Hong Kong at an international law firm, worked at several international law firms in South-East Asia and joined the bar to focus on advocacy.

Practice Areas:

David's practice areas are arbitration, commercial litigation, criminal law, employment law and family law.

Legal Systems Expertise:

With extensive experience in both civil and common law jurisdictions, David is proficient in the laws of England and Wales, the UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and the US (California, New York and Delaware). He has played leading roles in advising and representing clients in trade disputes under ICC, THAC, TAI, SIAC, HKIAC, and Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration rules.

Professional Background:

David is experienced in cases which have an international dimension having worked as a counsel in international arbitration cases overseas.

Notable Legal Endeavors:

As lead counsel, David has led international disputes involving sums up to 100 million USD. A significant case includes advising on a renewable energy dispute at Thailand Arbitration Institute for a billion Thai Baht between a European entity and the world's largest manufacturer of construction equipment and negotiating the securing of the delivery of a gas drilling rig to a contractor based in Dubai from a contractee based in Thailand in a dispute concerning around 100 million USD in dispute which was subject to a SIAC arbitration agreement. His early career at magic circle law firm, and his tenure in a shipping & trade law firm, laid a foundation for his current expertise.

ASEAN Experience:

To deepen his understanding of ASEAN legal landscapes, David worked in law firms in Bangkok, focusing on employment, international business law, fintech, hospitality, and commodities. His experience covers high-profile international trade disputes and regulatory probes into cryptocurrency exchanges. Highlights include working with one of the largest commodities trading houses in London on base and precious metals deals and disputes and some of the biggest hospitality groups in the world on employment matters and restructuring issues.

Pupillage and Mentorship:

David's pupillage was served with the former director of Public Prosecutions, Justice Zervos SC, Graham Harris SC (Liberty Chambers), Edward Alder (Princes Chambers), Colin Wright (Gilt Chambers), and James McGowan (Admiralty Chambers). He chose these pupil masters to enrich his legal acumen in corporate crime, shipping law and international arbitration.

Year of Call

2014 Barrister
2011 Solicitor

Practice Areas

- Arbitration
- Commercial Litigation
- Criminal Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law

Languages Spoken

- English

Contact Details

A 3102, Tower Two, Lippo Centre,
89 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong
E davidsouthern@qedchambers.com
P +852 2950 6991
F +852 2406 9366



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Academic Qualifications

- 2022 Oxford Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (CIArb)
- 2009 Chinese University of Hong Kong, Post Graduate Certificate of Laws (PCLL)
- 2005 Cardiff University, Master of Laws, Shipping Law (LL.M.)
- 2003 University of Liverpool, Bachelor of Laws (LL.B. (Hons))

Judicial, Statutory Body, and/or Other Appointments

- 2024 Member of the East Asia branch of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- 2022 Thailand Arbitration Centre Panel of Arbitrators

Memberships & Accreditation

- 2023 Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)

Notable Cases

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Construction (On Shore and Off Shore)

Advised, negotiated, and represented on all matters about the securing of the delivery of a gas drilling rig (topside module) to a contractor based in Dubai from a contractee based in Thailand in a dispute concerning circa US\$100 million.

Represented a client based in Saudi Arabia who is the CEO of a construction company in a dispute with a Korean contractee on a multi-million-dollar construction project in Saudi Arabia.

Fintech

Represented a cryptocurrency marketing company, specializing in crowd sale and ICO events, in a cross-border dispute regarding a digital asset exchange in the EU.

International Trade Disputes

Lawyer for the Claimant from Dubai in an international trade dispute in international arbitration proceedings at THAC under Thai law in a claim against a trading company for breach of contract.

Lawyer for the Claimant on an ICC arbitration Case, seated in California and governed under Californian law, in a multi-million US dollar international sales of goods arbitration.

Represented the Claimant which was a Middle Eastern trading company in a claim for over 1.3 million US Dollars for breach of an international sales of goods contract by a Thai manufacturing company.

Arbitration Lawyer for a Singapore ad-hoc arbitration for breach of a multi-million US Dollar international sale of goods arbitration for the Claimant Offshore Construction Disputes.

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Notable Cases (cont.)

Renewable Energy Disputes

Advised on a billion-baht dispute involving a renewable energy power plant under TAI arbitration.

M&A Disputes

Advised on a contractual dispute arising over the breach of a 15 million USD Term Sheet to purchase a renewable power plan in Vietnam with choice of law for Singapore law and arbitration at SIAC.

Media & Content Companies

Negotiating a high-stake multimillion-dollar dispute between a major global broadcasting and a content company under a HKIAC arbitration agreement.

Shipping

Represented a Thai company in an international dispute with a shipping company that refused to release goods worth over US\$1.2 million, shipped from Hong Kong to a destination port in Turkey, to the true notify party, in a case involving fraudulent agents.

CROSS-BORDER LITIGATION

Intellectual Property Disputes

Represented a UK client, which is a high-profile tech company, in a trademark dispute against a competitor company.

Banking & Finance Disputes

Represented and advised a Dominican-registered offshore bank in negotiating the settlement of a multi-million-dollar dispute by investors against it.

Publications

A list of David's publications can found in his LinkedIn Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidasouthern/>

He has published articles and added to textbook commentaries for the following jurisdictions and topics:

HONG KONG

Company Law
Crime
Employment
Insolvency
Securities
Shipping

THAILAND

Arbitration
Data Protection
Fintech
Medical Cannabis