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Jeff Yau



Call

2020 (Hong Kong)

Languages

English
Cantonese
Mandarin

Areas of Practice

Arbitration
Chinese Customary Law
Commercial & Banking Law
Companies
Compulsory Sales of Land
Construction
Defamation
Employment
Equity & Trusts
Insolvency
Intellectual Property
Land Resumption & Land Compensation
Mental Health
Probate & Succession
Property & Land
Public Law & Judicial Review
Unjust Enrichment

Contact

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Practice Profile

Jeff is a civil practitioner with a strong focus on commercial disputes, company and securities matters, insolvency law and employment disputes.

In his private client and chancery practice, he frequently acts for and advises clients on both contentious and non-contentious property and trust-related matters, including conveyancing, administration of trusts/ estate (including Chinese customary law such as tso tong issues), and general probate matters (including validity of wills, etc.). He also has a growing experience in matrimonial finance and family law.

On the advocacy side, Jeff is frequently instructed to appear as sole counsel in all levels of the Hong Kong court system (up to the Court of Final Appeal), specialised tribunals & statutory boards (such as the Market Misconduct Tribunal and the Administrative Appeals Board) and arbitral proceedings. In so doing, he has gained all all-rounded advocacy experience throughout the civil litigation process, including interlocutory applications, trials, appeals and taxation proceedings.

Jeff has earned the recognitions of Legal 500 Asia Pacific: Hong Kong Bar (2025) and (2026) as “Leading Junior” and “Rising Star” in the areas of “Commercial Disputes” and “Labour and Employment”, being described as “skilled in interlocutory applications”.

He regularly acts for listed companies, high-net-worth individuals, professional trustees and receivers in complex and high-value disputes involving clients and laws in Mainland China, the BVI, the Cayman Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and Italy. He has also acted for and advised public bodies.

Drawing on his practical experience in private client matters, Jeff has been appointed as a Professional Consultant at the Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong since 2023, teaching conveyancing and probate practice on its Postgraduate Certificate in Laws course. He is also appointed by the Hong Kong SAR Government to sit on the Appeal Panel (Estate Agents Ordinance) and the Appeal Panel (Basic Housing Units Ordinance).

He is also developing a practice in international commercial arbitration and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and an HKIAC Accredited Tribunal Secretary.

Jeff studied at the University of Hong Kong, where he graduated third in his cohort in law and was placed on the Dean’s Honours List for three consecutive years. He went on to read for a Master of Laws degree at King’s College London and graduated top of his class with the Dickson Poon School of Law Prize.

He is fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese. In particular, he has conducted proceedings, including cross-examination, in Mandarin.

Education

- LLM, King’s College London
- PCLL, The University of Hong Kong
- LLB, The University of Hong Kong
- BBA (Law), The University of Hong Kong
- St Joseph’s College, Hong Kong

Professional Qualifications

- Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb) (2022)
- Insolvency Preparatory I & II (as part of the Professional Diploma in Insolvency programme), The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (2018, 2022)
- Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator, Society of Mediators, UK (2019)
- HKSI Practicing Certificates (Securities; Corporate Finance), Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute (2015)

Scholarship & Award

- The Dickson Poon School of Law Prize (2019)
- Second Honourable Mention for Best Mooter, the 16th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot (Asia-Pacific Region) (2018)
- MW Lo Memorial Scholarship (2017)
- Dean’s Honours List (2015, 2016, 2017)
- CH Chan Scholarship (2012)

Appointments

- 2023 – Present: Professional Consultant, Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 2025 – Present: Member, Appeal Panel (Estate Agents Ordinance)
- 2026 – Present: Member, Appeal Panel (Basic Housing Units Ordinance)

Publications

- Contributor, Lexis Advance® Hong Kong Practical Guidance on "Intestacy" and "Will Drafting" by LexisNexis

Selected Cases

Commercial

High Court

- *Target Insurance Company Limited v Ng Yu & Ors:*
  - [2025] HKCA 150: resisting an appeal against a discharge of an *ex parte* Mareva injunction for US$150 million fraud claim involving the largest motor insurer in Hong Kong (led by Robert Whitehead SC)
  - [2023] HKCFI 7; [2023] HKCFI 565: application for discharge of an *ex parte* Mareva injunction for

US$150 million fraud claim involving the largest motor insurer in Hong Kong (led by Robert Whitehead SC)
    - [2022] HKCFI 1362: applications for an interim stay and variation of a disclosure order (led by Robert Pang SC)
- *Chan Fun Kwong v Choi Chak Man & Ors*:
    - [2026] HKCA 1116: leave to appeal to the Court of Final Appeal (sole advocate)
    - [2026] HKCA 357: appeal to the Court of Appeal (led by Robert Pang SC)
    - [2024] HKCFI 722: resisting a claim involving a question of law as to whether a purported loan of HK$60 million under a deed the principal which was never advanced is enforceable (led by Robert Whitehead SC)
- *Chen Simon Guomin v Chan Choi Har Ivy* [2025] HKCA 730, reported as [2025] 5 HKC 1002: appeal concerning trial judges' approach to a trial with self-represented litigants (sole advocate)
- *UK Prolific Petroleum Group Company Ltd v 鑫都集團有限公司* [2025] HKCFI 4769, reported as [2025] 5 HKLRD 982 and [2025] 6 HKC 966: application concerning the jurisdiction of the Hong Kong to issue stop notices and stop orders under O.50 rr.11-15 of the Rules of the High Court as interim measures to hold the ring over shares and convertible bonds of a listed company pending arbitration in the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (sole advocate)
- *Realord Group Holdings Limited & Anor v Win Dynamic Limited & Anor* [2025] HKCFI 1939: enforcement of a deed of gift under which an offeree undertook to advance the whole consideration of over HK$250 million under a voluntary general offer to the subject company (led by Jin Pao SC and with Vincent Chen)
- *Full Ying Holdings Ltd v Active Access Holdings Ltd & Ors* [2025] HKCFI 1018: assessment of damages involving the questions as to how the date for assessment of loss should be ascertained where an order of specific performance is not complied with (sole advocate)
- *黃偉成 v 交通銀行股份有限公司* [2024] HKCFI 1902, reported as [2025] 1 HKC 641: appeal from the Small Claim Tribunal involving the question as to whether a term would be implied in law in a credit agreement that it was conditional upon the survival of that specific supply contract where the credit agreement was entered into for the sole purpose to finance the latter (led by Anthony Chan SC)
- *Supreme China Securities Limited v Ng Wing Yip & Ors* [2024] HKCFI 1196: defence of claim enforcing a guarantee given by an account executive of a securities firm in respect of the losses suffered by the firm (sole advocate)
- *Mason Group Holdings Limited v Tam Wing On* [2023] HKCFI 3305, reported as [2024] 1 HKLRD 601: striking-out of a claim of unlawful conspiracy involving the purported inflation of the consideration of HK$84 million for acquisition of Bio-Gene Group (sole advocate)
- *Perpetual Trust Limited (as Administrator of the Estate of Alexander Gavin Brown) v Kobe Investments Limited* [2022] HKCFI 2762: striking-out of a proprietary claim of around AUD$250 million by a foreign administrator in respect of the controlling stake in an ASX-listed mining company (led by Marc Corlett KC)
- *Ngan In Leng & Ors v Chu Yuet Wah* [2022] HKCFI 558: resisted a claim of over HK$250 million in a 10-day involving a dispute arising from an acquisition of a hotel-cum-casino in Macao (led by Robert Whitehead SC and with Vincent Chen)

- *Thapa Kamala v Tong Ming Kay & Ors* [2021] HKCFI 2371: striking out of claims of malicious prosecution and misfeasance in public office on the ground that they are a collateral attack of a ruling of a magistrate (led by Robert Pang SC)
- *Li Ngan Kwan v Gao Li Hui & Anor* (HCA 276/2007): setting aside of a gift of a controlling interest in a hotel in Shenzhen of a value of over RMB¥300 million involving forgery and breach of fiduciary duties (with Andrew Mak)
- *Agostino Gallucci v Marco Toscano & Ors* (HCA 199/2017): enforcement of right of pre-emption under a shareholders' agreement governed by Hong Kong law by a minority shareholder of a BVI company, which was triggered by a sale and purchase agreement governed by Italian law (sole advocate)

Market Misconduct Tribunal

- Market Misconduct Tribunal Proceedings in the matter of Smartac Group China Holdings Limited (Stock Code: 612) and China Investment Fund Company Limited (Stock Code: 395) (consolidated proceedings): representing a specified person in resisting allegations of various market misconduct such as false trading, price rigging and market manipulation (sole advocate at the preliminary conference and substantive hearing)

District Court

- *Wai Chun Holdings Group Ltd v Yip Kam Kuen* [2023] HKDC 1241: whether exceptional circumstances are required to admit further evidence on appeal after such application was rejected before a Master (sole advocate)
- *深圳佳銳食品有限公司 v Wing Tech Ltd* [2023] HKDC 1036: acted for the plaintiff in a 5-day trial arising from the breakdown of a cooperation agreement (sole advocate)
- Advising on and/or acting for parties in relation to (i) joint venture, partnership and shareholders disputes and (ii) investment agreement disputes

Bankruptcy and Insolvency

- *Dadra Inc. v Chan Choi Har Ivy*:
  - [2025] HKCFA 25, reported as (2025) 28 HKCFAR 447: appeal against an imprisonment order made under Ord.49B of the Rules of the High Court on the ground that the Court lacks jurisdiction to proceed with an examination and impose such an order against a bankrupt and interim stay application (sole advocate)
  - [2023] HKCA 707; [2024] HKCA 773, reported as [2024] 4 HKLRD 508; [2024] 6 HKC 480: appeal to the Court of Appeal and leave to appeal to the Court of Final Appeal (sole advocate)
  - [2025] HKCFA 12: leave to the Court of Final Appeal (sole advocate)

- *Re China Zenith Chemical Group Ltd [2025] HKCA 253*: resisting an appeal by the Company against the

finding by the judge that there is no bona fide dispute as to the debt (sole advocate)

- *Re Hu Siyun* [2025] HKCFI 579: bankruptcy petition involving the question as to whether the subject debt in a margin account is time-barred and the court found that each margin call in monthly statements created a new cause of action for different amounts rather than continuing a single debt (sole advocate)
- *Re Zhu Guoling* [2025] HKCFI 458: bankruptcy petition involving the questions as to whether the debtor was domiciled, resident, or carrying on business in Hong Kong and whether there was a bona fide dispute over whether her personal guarantee covered the debt arising from a financial advisory agreement
- *Re Ma Ting Hoi Albert* [2024] HKCFI 3460, reported as [2025] 2 HKC 547: bankruptcy petition involving the questions as to whether different debt amounts in statutory demand and petition gave rise to jurisdictional issues and whether the security value exceeded the debt (with Vincent Chen)
- *Re China Zenith Chemical Group Ltd* [2024] HKCFI 2097; [2025] HKCFI 1181: applications for substitution and discharge of undertaking by the company in a winding-up petition, with the court finding no bona fide dispute as to the debt and ordering the company to pay the same failing which the company will be wound up (with Vincent Chen); winding-up of the company (sole advocate)
- *Acropolis Ltd v W&Q Investment Ltd & Ors* [2024] HKCFI 482 reported as [2024] 3 HKC 249 (application for trial of preliminary issues); [2024] HKCFI 1065, reported as [2024] 2 HKLRD 912 (trial of preliminary issues); [2024] HKCFI 1645 (costs): review of taxation of former provisional liquidators' bill and trial of preliminary issues concerning a cap on the fees of former provisional liquidators (sole advocate)
- *WMFS v HSLA* [2023] HKCFI 1088: setting-aside of a statutory demand on the ground that no security has been created over the underlying debt and failure to state the same in the statutory demand does not render it invalid (sole advocate)
- *Re Ashit Sud (Debtor)* [2022] HKCFI 1269, reported as [2022] 2 HKLRD 898; [2022] 4 HKC 575: winding-up and bankruptcy petitions for a US$30 million debt on the ground that the creditor rejected a reasonable offer to compromise and secure (sole advocate)
- *NKW 對 CCL* [2022] HKCFI 3595, reported as [2023] 4 HKC 160: review of a decision to set aside a statutory demand (sole advocate)

Will, Trusts, Probate, Mental Health and Family

High Court

- *Tsang Lin Yau Linda (sue as the Administratrix De Bonis Non of the Estate of the late Lee Wong Fun Chong) v Lee Jun Sing & Ors* [2025] HKCFI 5117: leave to appeal against decision on costs on the ground that the trial court does not have jurisdiction to order that a personal representative cannot recover costs from the estate as it does not sit in its probate jurisdiction (sole advocate)
- *Re Estate of Chan Fook Lai (Deceased)* [2023] HKCA 1177, reported as [2024] 1 HKLRD 29: appeal against entering of summary judgment to pronounce a will on the ground that allegation of mental incapacity is not fit for summary disposal (sole advocate)
- *Lui Ming Lok v Ng Im Fong Loretta, the Executrix of the Estate of Lui Kwan Cheung, Deceased* [2023]

HKCA 865, reported as [2023] 4 HKLRD 37; [2023] 5 HKC 588; [2023] HKFLR 376: resisted an appeal on whether section 20(2)(c) and (d) of the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance (Cap. 179) provides a comprehensive code for all forms and degrees of mental issues where a marriage might be affected by "unsoundness of mind" (led by Robert Pang SC)

- *Young Chi Kin Eric v The Personal Representatives of Zhong Xian Wen, Deceased & Anor* [2023] HKCFI 1783: vesting order of BVI shares vested in the estate of a deceased who passed away in Hong Kong intestate (sole advocate)
- *Ng Im Fong Loretta, the Executrix of the Estate of Lui Kwan Cheung, Deceased v Charm Investments Ltd & Anor* [2021] HKCFI 1787, reported as [2021] 3 HKLRD 327: stay of various asset-recovery actions pending determination a parallel probate action (led by Robert Pang SC)
- *Re KCC*: acting for an interim receiver and later committee of an alleged MIP in the mental health proceedings and the related proceedings for recovery of misappropriated assets in the sum of HK$30 million, disclosure against the alleged MIP's former solicitors and contempt proceedings (led by Sara Tong SC)
- *Re YLC*: acting for a committee appointed under the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136) on whether an action/ application brought by a committee before the sanction of the mental health court has been obtained is valid (sole advocate)
- Advising on various probate actions involving contested issues of testamentary capacity, fraudulent calumny, undue influence, mutual wills, etc., application for grants and administration of estates

District Court

- *CVL v WMLS* [2024] HKFC 85: appeal against Family Court Master's decision in respect of an application for a stay of filing of Form E pending the determination of main suit (sole advocate)
- *Cheung Siu Ling & Ors v Tse Yuk Lin & Anor* [2021] HKDC 1290: representation order on the ground that an action to assert a right of way is connected with the proper administration of a deceased's estate (with Valentine Yim)

Employment

- *Lee Cheuk Lam v Tai Ping Carpets Ltd* [2025] HKCFI 2733, reported as [2025] 4 HKLRD 90: appeal involving the weight to be given to claimant's description of extra work as outside scope of duties in the determination of the legal nature of relationship by the Labour Tribunal in a claim for wrongful deduction of wages for extra work (sole advocate)
- *Yang Zhizhong v Nomura International (Hong Kong) Limited* [2024] HKCFI 2192: trial of an employment claim brought a former Head of China of an investment bank against his former employer for loss of discretionary bonus and unvested bonus awards (led by Robert Whitehead SC)
- *Lam Sin-yi Sindy v Leung King-wai William t/a William KW Leung & Co*:
    - [2021] HKCA 720: resisting an application for leave to appeal on the ground that the Court of First Instance has the jurisdiction to draw factual inferences on appeal from statutory tribunals (sole advocate)

    - [2020] HKCFI 2525, reported as [2020] 5 HKLRD 170: appeal against a decision of the Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board dismissing a claim for unpaid wages on the ground that there were special circumstances when the appellant tendered her resignation (sole advocate)
- Advised a statutory body on various employment issues (led by Sara Tong SC)
- Advised a former head of an investment banking division of a bank on a potential discrimination claim
- Advised a former senior finance professional on settlement negotiations concerning constructive dismissal and clawing back of commitment bonus

Property and Conveyancing

- *Leung Shui Fun v Secretary for Justice* [2026] HKCFI 629: resisting an application for summary judgment on counterclaim which involves the questions as to whether the case of Fairweather applies to Government lands and the applicability of the concept of radical title in Hong Kong (sole advocate)
- *Ho Yat Wah v Chung Hang Him, The Sole Executor Named in the Will of Madam Chan Yuk Mui, Deceased* [2024] HKCA 378, reported as [2024] 5 HKC 47: appeal against judgment in respect of a claim of common intention constructive trust over 7 properties on the ground that trial judge committed a Mibanga error by failing to properly consider all relevant evidence before drawing conclusions (led by Jonathan Chang SC and with Vincent Chen)
- *鄧昇旗 & Anor v 身份不詳的佔用人, etc.* [2025] HKDC 1158: applications for joinder and stay in five related actions involving dispute over tso and tong properties in the New Territories (with Victor KT Lui)
- *Ego Finance Limited v Poon Sau Han Joanna & Anor* [2023] HKCFI 868: representing a co-owner in modifying terms of an order for sale (sole advocate)
- *Wong Anita Shu Ting v Yuen Yiu Chung* [2022] HKCFI 209, reported as [2022] 2 HKC 499: vendor and purchaser summons on whether a joint tenancy was severed by an order of the Family Court without a deed of release (with Valentine Yim)

Civil Procedure

High Court

- *Flying Financial Services Holdings Ltd v Messrs Chiu & Partners* [2026] HKCFI 2045: taxation of solicitors' bills for non-contentious matters (sole advocate)
- *Li Yulong v Liu Jing* [2024] HKCFI 3163: application for dismissal of an action for breach of an unless order regarding provision of further and better particulars involving the question as to whether the Court can grant relief against sanction of its own motion (sole advocate)
- *Thapa Kamala v Tong Ming Kay & Ors* [2023] HKCA 1016: amendment of pleadings on appeal against a decision to strike out the same (sole advocate)
- *Au Din Har Ellen v Au Yee Wan & Ors* [2024] HKCFI 199, reported as [2024] 1 HKLRD 825; [2024] 3 HKC 9: applicability of the doctrine of estoppel to the discontinuance of action (with Cyrus Lau)
- *KMH, KMKT and KMCJ, The Committee of the Estate of KCC v Lam Ho Chi* [2023] HKCFI 2714: contempt proceedings against defendant for failure to comply with disclosure orders ancillary to injunctive reliefs (sole advocate)

- *Hong Kong Golden Development (Holdings) Limited v Chan Ma Choi* [2022] HKCFI 2281, reported as [2022] 6 HKC 257: amendment of a statement of claim alleged to be wholly inconsistent with previous versions of the pleading and evidence (with Andrew Mak)
- *Li Ngan Kwan & Ors v Gao Li Hui & Ors* [2021] HKCFI 2878; [2022] HKCFI 171; [2023] HKCA 781; [2024] HKCA 298: amendment a pre-CJR statement of claim on the grounds of inexplicable delay and inconsistency with earlier pleadings (with Andrew Mak)
- *Li Ngan Kwan v Gao Li Hui & Anor* [2021] HKCFI 1946: trial *de novo* after a part-heard trial in 2008 (with Andrew Mak)

District Court

- *Wong, Aileen v Diasqua International Limited* [2023] HKDC 1661, reported as [2024] 2 HKC 611: variation of expert directions and stay of unless order (sole advocate)
- *Demy Engineering Ltd v Sau San Tong Management Ltd* [2022] HKDC 31: permanent stay of proceedings on the ground that a compromise has been reached (sole advocate)

Arbitration

- *Kamling International Ltd v First Resources (HK) Development Ltd* [2023] HKCFI 1713 — application for stay of proceedings in favour of arbitration in the PRC (sole advocate)
- HKIAC Rules: acting for a prominent cross-border payment company in a trial involving a claim of over RMB¥150 million against a service provider for breach of a service agreement and counterclaim of procurement of breach of contract (sole advocate)
- HKIAC Rules: resisting a claim for the specific performance of an investment agreement and advancing counterclaims with a view to unwinding a merger of various corporate entities (sole advocate)
- HKIAC Rules: acted for a PRC beverage company in defending a claim of over US$450 million, which involved various interim proceedings such as applications for injunctive relief, joinder, jurisdictional challenge, etc. (with Vincent Chen)
- Advising a Russian client on the enforcement of a Russian arbitral award in Hong Kong and related enforcement proceedings
- Advised a PRC media company on the recoverability of damages for over RMB¥170 million arising from a breach of investment agreement (led by Robert Whitehead SC)

Judicial Review and Administrative Law

- *Lau Kwong Man v Director of Environmental Protection & Anor* [2022] HKCFI 1466: leave for judicial review against the decision of the Secretary for the Environment in exercising its independent judgment in building a tunnel in Tuen Mun (with Valentine Yim)
- *Vivid Limited v Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Authority* (Appeal Case Nos. (1) 53-1/2022 & (2) 54-2/2022): appeal before the Appeal Board (Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation) regarding refusal to renew a license and construction of the word “hotel” under section 12 J of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (Cap. 349) (sole advocate)

- *Re 3rd Floor, No. 53 Ma Tau Chung Road, Kowloon* (Appeal Case No. 2023-001): appeal before the Home Purchase Allowance Appeals Committee against the Lands Department's refusal to grant full allowance to two former registered owners regarding owner-occupier status (sole advocate)
- *Nam Lun International Trading Co Ltd v Director of Marine* (AAB No. 18/2023): appeal before the Administrative Appeal Board against the Director of Marine's decision not to grant various permits at a public cargo working area and application for disclosure of documents against the Director (sole advocate)