

Jonathan Leitch

Partner

Hong Kong

Biography

Jonathan Leitch is a restructuring partner in our Hong Kong office.

Jonathan specialises in restructuring and special situations. He has wide-ranging experience in acting for all types of stakeholders in the restructuring and insolvency of financially challenged companies. He acts for a range of financial institutions, credit investors, insolvency office holders, turnaround specialists, hedge funds, private equity firms and corporations.

Jonathan has advised on transactions throughout the Asia Pacific region, principally Hong Kong, PRC and Singapore, and also Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and increasingly India.

Jonathan is frequently involved in cross-border matters and has experience in bond defaults (English and New York law governed) and corporate restructuring involving schemes of arrangement, as well as distressed debt sales and non-performing loan portfolio sales. He regularly advises clients on all aspects of financial restructurings, including wind-down and solvent liquidations, debt rescheduling, loan-to-own distressed investment strategies and debt-for-equity swaps, together with enforcement options and formal insolvency proceedings.

He has been involved with the restructuring of



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Languages

English

Practices

Business Restructuring and
Insolvency

companies in a variety of sectors, including retail, property, shipping and transportation, manufacturing, energy, mining, technology, and agriculture.

Representative experience

Advised a bondholder in relation to its exposures to China Energy Reserve and Chemicals Group.*

Advised an asset manager in relation to exposures to Shanghai Huaxin Group (Hong Kong) Limited, a subsidiary of CEFC.*

Advised a European bank in connection with their exposures to Noble Group.*

Advised a syndicate of banks in relation to their enforcement options in respect of Sabah Forest Industries Limited, one of the largest manufacturers of paper and pulp in Malaysia.*

Advised Grant Thornton appointed as independent directors to the board and investment subsidiaries of a global alternative investments firm.*

Advised the Cayman Islands joint official liquidators of Platinum Partners Value Arbitrage Fund L.P., a New York based US\$1.3bn hedge fund in relation to certain equity investments held by the fund in Asia-Pacific.*

Advised the US court appointed receiver of ZST Digital Networks, Inc. in relation to their options and realisation strategy in the PRC.*

Advised on the US\$500 million restructuring of a US listed microsystems company with operations in Asia spanning China, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Taiwan, Korea and Japan.*

Advised various lenders and credit funds on the restructuring of Pacific Andes / China Fisheries Group involving proceedings in Bermuda, BVI, Cayman Islands, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Peru, Singapore and the U.S. aggregate borrowings in excess of US\$1.6bn.*

Industries

Real Estate
Diversified Industrials
Energy and Natural Resources
Financial Institutions
Technology and Telecoms
Private Capital

Areas of focus

Cross-border Restructuring and Insolvency
Creditor Representation in Restructurings and Insolvencies
Debtor Representation in Restructurings and Insolvencies
Loan Portfolio and Distressed Debt Transactions

Education and admissions

Education

LLM LPC, Nottingham Law School, 1998
LLB (Hons) Law, Nottingham Trent University, 1996

Advised PwC as the receivers of Rightway China Real Estate Limited in respect of its enforcement and realisation strategy involving in excess of US\$750 million of offshore debt liabilities and in connection with the Hong Kong Court of First Instance case, Charmway Hong Kong Investment v Fortunesea (Cayman) Ltd & Ors [2015] HKCU 171 in relation to an individual lenders' rights of action under a syndicated credit agreement.*

*Matter handled prior to joining Hogan Lovells.

Awards and rankings

- 500 Leading Global Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers, *Lawdragon*, 2020
- Restructuring/Insolvency: China (International Firms), Leading individuals, *Chambers Asia Pacific*, 2017-2020
- Restructuring and insolvency, Leading individuals, *Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, 2016-2020
- Restructuring & Insolvency (Hong Kong), Recommended practitioner, *Who's Who Legal*, 2018-2020

Latest thinking and events

- Insights
 - Foreign creditors get more say under new Hong Kong – mainland China insolvency arrangement
- Insights
 - Structuring options for foreign fund sponsors in China
- News
 - Hong Kong and mainland China agree new co-operation mechanism for cross-border insolvency
- Insights
 - Hong Kong gives further boost to family offices with private equity tax changes

Memberships

International Insolvency Institute

INSOL

HKICPA Restructuring and Insolvency Faculty

Bar admissions and qualifications

Hong Kong

Solicitor, England and Wales

Accolades

A "good strategist who really knows his cross-border stuff."

Chambers Asia-Pacific 2020

- Insights
 - Investing in China's private debt markets: opportunities for foreign investors
- Insights
 - Show us the evidence – Hong Kong court sets out principles on adjournment of winding-up petitions