


## Deirdre Fu

PARTNER | HONG KONG

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 DEIRDRE.FU@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

 +852 3711 1620

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SECRETARY ERNY SENDJAJA

 ERNY.SENDJAJA@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM

 +852 3711 1680



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### Deirdre is a partner in the private client and tax team.

She focuses on trust and succession planning, and advises high-net-worth individuals and institutional trustees on wealth protection structuring as well as the importance of planning for incapacity. She also advises on taxation in Hong Kong for individuals and family investment holding vehicles, and related planning opportunities. She has also advised corporations on the set up of employee share trusts.

Deirdre is listed as an 'up and coming' private wealth practitioner in Chambers' HNW Guide 2021-2023. She has been recommended as a pre-eminent private client lawyer and a highly regarded practitioner in Mainland China, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR in Who's Who Legal. Furthermore, she has been recognised in Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2019-2023; Citywealth's 2019 Powerwomen List, Citywealth's 2019-2024 Leading Private Client Lawyers list and Citywealth's 2024 Leaders List. She has also been recognised as a 'leading talent of foreign-related lawyers in Guangzhou' in 2024 by the Guangzhou Lawyers Association.

She passed the STEP diploma on International Trust Management with Distinction in 2014. She was a Lecturer for the University of Hong Kong, Department on Professional Legal Education, on the Trust and Estate module from 2019 to 2023. She is qualified in England & Wales, Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area of China.

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## Track record

## Hong Kong tax

Advised Hong Kong and overseas clients on Hong Kong tax, including potential profits tax implications in case the clients hold investments via trusts or private investment holding companies; potential stamp duty implications on the transfer of real estate or shares in Hong Kong; and on individual salaries tax.

## Set up of employee share schemes and the establishment of share trusts upon listing

Advised PRC or Hong Kong companies on the set up of employee share schemes and the establishment of share trusts to facilitate the schemes and hold the company shares upon listing in Hong Kong or overseas.

## Setup of offshore trusts for succession

Advised clients on the setup of offshore trusts to hold assets for succession and on UK tax planning if members of the family become UK tax residents.

## Establishing UK trusts and pre-nup agreements for HK family

Advised an ultra-high-net worth Hong Kong family on the set-up, under Jersey law, of various family and baby trusts to hold financial assets, properties (in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom) and listed company shares for asset protection on behalf of the children. Drafted pre-nuptial agreements and advised on the effectiveness of such agreements in Hong Kong as well as the treatment of trust assets on divorce.

## Hong Kong entrepreneur

Advised a Hong Kong entrepreneur on the set up of a pre-IPO trust with application of the Virgin Islands Special Trust Act (VISTA) provisions to hold shares in his company which was to be listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX). Helped to devise guidelines on the membership to, and succession mechanism for, a committee with powers to appoint directors to the VISTA company; advised on the HKEX disclosure requirements for parties involved with the trust; further advised on the distribution mechanism for the minor beneficiary, as well as revised the Memorandum and Articles of Association of companies held directly and indirectly by the trust to enable tighter control.

## Hong Kong client

Advised a Hong Kong client on the use of a trust governed by Hong Kong law to hold her business for succession planning; assisted with the formation of a Hong Kong company as private trust company to act as trustee of the family trust; as well as advised on the succession mechanism for membership to the trustee company.

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## Talks

- 'A Panel Discussion on Divorce - Proofing and Trust - Busting: Practical Measures for Trustees', STEP, Hong Kong - Nov 17, 2015

## External publications

'How Enduring Power of Attorney works in Hong Kong and why it is useful' - Mar 2022, co-author

'Is it necessary to have a Chinese notarised will to deal with my assets in the mainland?' - Dec 2021, co-author

'Implementation of Common Reporting Standard in Hong Kong - Implications for Family Trust with a Private Trust Company as Trustee', Lexology - Dec 2016

'Wealth and Succession Planning: Lessons Learned From the Winding Up of Yung Kee Holdings Limited', Lexology - Mar 2016

'What does "property under my name" really mean?', Lexology - Dec 2015

'Passing your estate to a discretionary trust by will - pitfalls to avoid', Lexology - Oct 2015

## Admissions

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, People's Republic of China, 2023

Hong Kong, 1995

England & Wales, 1995

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## Education

University of Cambridge, MA

College of Law, Guildford, LPC

City University, MBA

STEP Diploma in International Trust Management (Distinction)

Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners (STEP), Advanced Certificate in UK Tax for International Clients (Distinction)

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## Languages

Cantonese

English

Mandarin

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## Memberships

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), Hong Kong

Hong Kong Ballet Company, Governor and Honorary Secretary

Hong Kong Ballet Group, Board member

STEP Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Sub-Committee, Member

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## Key dates

Year joined: 2017

Year became partner: 2023

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