

Gary Soo's Chambers

GARY K.L. SOO

Arbitrator and Accredited Mediator

Barrister and Chartered Engineer

B.Sc. (Hong Kong) LL.B. (London) LL.M. (Peking)

CEng RPE(Civil, Structural) MStructE MICE MHKIE MCQI MASCE FHKI Arb FCIArb FHKIoD

Contact Details

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Academic Profile

- Master of Laws (LL.M.) 2002, Peking University
- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) 1993, University of London
- Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Civil and Structural Engineering, 1989, The University of Hong Kong

Professional Profile

- 2010 Accredited Mediator of The Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR)
- 2009 Fellow of The Hong Kong Institute of Directors
- 2008 Chartered Quality Professional
- 2003 Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- 1999 Fellow of The Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators
Member of The American Society of Civil Engineers
- 1997 Member of The Chartered Quality Institute
- 1996 Associate of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- 1995 Barrister-at-Law of The Supreme Court of Hong Kong
Barrister-at-Law of The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
Registered Professional Engineer (Civil, Structural)
- 1994 Member of The Institution of Civil Engineers
Member of The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Chartered Engineer of The Engineering Council
- 1993 Member of The Institution of Structural Engineers

Professional Practice & Experience

Experience

Since 2010

Barrister-at-Law, Arbitrator and Mediator

- Practice in construction and commercial litigation, arbitration and mediation
- Practice before courts, arbitrators, mediators, tribunals, panels, statutory boards and disciplinary committees

2008-2010

Secretary-General

Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

1995-2008

Barrister-at-Law

- Practice in construction and commercial litigation and arbitration
- Practice in and advice on procedures and strategy for construction and commercial litigation and arbitration
- Appearing as advocate in litigation and arbitration in numerous trials and hearings
- Advice on witnesses, experts and evidence in litigation and arbitration
- Advice on choice of arbitrator and challenges to enforcement of arbitral awards
- Number of days of such hearings and trials ranging from 1 day to 2-3 weeks
- Amount of disputes involved up to billions

Arbitrator and Mediator

- Listed arbitrator of arbitration commissions in China including CIETAC and Guangzhou, Dalian, Weizhou, Qinzhou, Suzhou, Weihai, Karamay, Yantai, Wuhan and Shenyang Arbitration Commissions
- Listed arbitrator and mediator of Hong Kong Bar Association
- Listed arbitrator and panelist of Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre
- Listed arbitrator and panelist of China Economic and International Trade Arbitration Commission
- Listed arbitrator and mediator of World Trade Center Macau Arbitration Center
- Listed panelist of Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Centre of Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre
- Listed arbitrator and mediator of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
- Appointed arbitrator for construction and international commercial arbitration
- Appointed arbitrator/panelist for domain name disputes
- Appointed arbitrator for construction, contractual, intellectual property, Mainland China related and international commercial arbitration disputes

- Appointed arbitrator/panelist for domain name disputes
- Appointed arbitrator for HKIAC, CIETAC & ICC arbitrations
- Appointed dispute resolution adviser for engineering projects
- Appointed mediator for construction, land and building management disputes

Some Recently Handled Arbitration and Mediation Cases

- Appointed arbitrator for arbitration involving a project development and investment
- Appointed presiding arbitrator for commercial arbitration involving international trade
- Appointed arbitrator for international intellectual property disputes under PRC law
- Appointed mediator for building management and land disputes
- Appointed mediator between employer and contractor for refurbishment and renovation works of low-rise development
- Advocate for licensing dispute of over 1 billion RMB involving a Mainland entity for arbitration in Chinese
- Advocate for commercial disputes each about HKD10M for arbitration in English and in Chinese
- Advocate for various domestic arbitrations
- Advocate for various construction, intellectual property, commercial, investment arbitrations

1990-1995 **Civil Engineer**, Hong Kong Government (last post)

- Contract design & administration
- Site supervision as resident engineer in housing development projects
- Project negotiation and dispute support
- Knowledge management

Selected Publication

- Author of book chapter on insurance arbitration for book titled “*Arbitration in Hong Kong: A Practical Guide (2nd Ed)*” published by Sweet & Maxwell (2011)
- Contributor to Mediator / ADR volume of “*The Hong Kong Encyclopedia of Forms and Precedents*” by LexisNexis (2011)
- Author on book chapter on Part 11 of the Arbitration Ordinance (Cap.609) for book titled “*The Hong Kong Arbitration Ordinance: Commentary and Annotations*” published by Sweet & Maxwell (2011)
- Co-author of book titled “*Construction Law and Practice in Hong Kong (2nd Ed)*” published by Sweet & Maxwell (2011)
- Author on professional liabilities for book chapter in “*Tort Law and Practice in Hong Kong (2nd Ed)*” published by Sweet & Maxwell (2011)
- Author on architects, engineers and surveyors sections of book chapter in “*Professional Conduct and Risk Management in Hong Kong*” published by Sweet & Maxwell (2007)

- Author on **professional liabilities** for book chapter in “*Tort Law and Practice in Hong Kong*” published by Sweet & Maxwell (2005)
- Author of book titled “Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy: Cases and Commentaries” published by Law Press China (2003)
- Author of book chapter on arbitration law reform for book titled “*Arbitration in Hong Kong: A Practical Guide*” published by Sweet & Maxwell (2003)
- “*Protecting Against Insolvency of Contractors in Hong Kong*” Construction Law Journal (2003) 19 Const.L.J. No.7 pp.406-421
- “*Invoking Security in Hong Kong Construction Contracts*” The International Construction Law Review [2001] ICLR Vol.18 Part 1, pp.130-146 (2001)
- “*International Enforcement of Arbitral Awards*” International Company and Commercial Law Review, [2000] I.C.C.L.R. Issue 7, pp.253-259 (2000)
- “*Securing Costs in Hong Kong Arbitration*” International Arbitration Law Review [2000] Int.A.L.R. Issue 1, pp.25-30 (2000)
- “*Impact of Insolvency on Hong Kong Arbitration*” International Arbitration Law Review [2000] Int.A.L.R. Issue 4, pp.103-107 (2000)
- “*The Dos and Don'ts of Mediation*”, Hong Kong Engineer, January issue, pp.33-35 (2001)
- “*Working Through Unworkable Mediation*” Arbitration, Vol.66 No. 3, pp.207-210 (2000)
- “*Resisting Arbitral Award Enforcement in Hong Kong*” The Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Law Journal, pp.214-222 (2000)
- “*Growing Role of Information Flow in Resolution of Construction Disputes*” Civil and Structural Engineering Issue, Journal of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore Vol.40, No.5, pp.1-3 (2000)
- “*Challenging Arbitration Awards in Hong Kong*” International Arbitration Law Review, [1999] Int.A.L.R. Issue 4, pp.111-116 (1999)
- “*Winding-up: Impact on Hong Kong Arbitration*” Hong Kong Lawyer, July Issue, pp.26-30 (2000)
- “*Legal Pitfalls and Solutions*”, Asia Engineer, July Issue, pp.9-11 (2000)
- “*Growing Importance of Documents in Construction Disputes*”, Civil Engineering, Proceedings of The Institution of Civil Engineers, November Issue, pp.148-149 (1999)
- “*Reporting Expertise*” Asia Engineer, August Issue, pp.19-21 (1999)
- “*Approaching Extension of Time*” Asia Engineer, July Issue, pp.17-19 (1999)
- “*What can ISO9000 do for you?*” Asia Engineer, February Issue, pp.12-14 (1999)

Selected Teaching/Lecturing/Research/ Workshop

- Lead Assessor for Accreditation of Construction Mediators for Hong Kong Construction Arbitration Centre
- Adjunct Professor teaching on engineering law subjects for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and supervising M.Sc. and Ph.D. research students, Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Hong Kong (2006-Present)
- Delivered presentation at International Commercial Arbitration Forum held by the

International Commercial Arbitration Research Institution, University of International Business and Economics and China Arbitration Research Society (2011, Beijing)

- Delivered presentation at International Arbitration, ADR and Mediation Summit 2011 held by CCH (2011, Hong Kong)
- Delivered presentations at New Arbitration Ordinance seminars held by Hong Kong Institute of arbitrators, Hong Kong Bar Association and Law Society of Hong Kong (2010-2011, Hong Kong)
- Delivered presentation at the 4th Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum (RAIF) Conference on “*Legislative Framework for Arbitration*” held by the Malaysian Institute of Arbitrators (2010, Kuala Lumpur)
- Delivered presentation at the Arbitration & The Financial Crisis on “*Specific Finance Arbitration Schemes - Perspectives and Issues*” held by the HKIAC (2009, Hong Kong)
- Delivered presentation at the ADR in Asia Conference on “*Aspects of Administered Arbitration - Institutional Perspectives and Practices*” held by the HKIAC (2009, Hong Kong)
- Discharged role of panel moderator at APRAG Conference on “*Asian Arbitration Practices under the Common Law Jurisdiction*” held by Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (2009, Seoul)
- Delivered presentation at the Juris Conference’s Resolving Business Disputes in Today’s China on “*Arbitration of Chinese-foreign Business Disputes: The Hong Kong Option*” jointly organised by the HKIAC and APRAG (2009, New York)
- Delivered presentation at the IPBA Conference on “*Better Ways of Resolving Disputes in Hong Kong: Some Insights from the Lehman-Brother Related Investment Products Dispute Mediation and Arbitration Scheme*” organised by Inter-Pacific Bar Association (2009, Manila)
- Delivered presentation on “*Arbitration of Chinese-Foreign Business Disputes: The Hong Kong Option*” organised by Shanghai Bar Association (2009, Shanghai)
- Delivered presentation at the 16th Commonwealth Law Conference on “*Ingredients for a Successful Place of Arbitration - The Hong Kong Experience*” jointly organised by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong (2009, Hong Kong)
- Discharged role of panel moderator at the 3rd Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum (RAIF) Conference on “*Court Intervention in International Arbitration – A Country Report*” organised by Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (2009, Hong Kong)
- Delivered webinar on “*China Domain Name Strategies for US Exporters*” by BUYUSA.GOV U.S. Commercial Service of Department of Commerce, USA (2008, HK/USA)
- Delivered presentation at the “*6th International Forum on Online Dispute Resolution*” held by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law (2007, Hong Kong)
- Delivered presentation at “*Mediation in Hong Kong: The Way Forward*” organized by Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (2007, Hong Kong)
- Delivered speech at “*Signing Ceremony for Formation of Greater China Arbitration Forum and 2nd “Greater China Arbitration Forum” Conference 2007*” held by Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (2007, Hong Kong)

- Chaired session at the “2007 *International Seminar on The Application and Interpretation of the CISG in Member States with Emphasis on Litigation and Arbitration in the PRC*” held by Wuhan University (2007, Wuhan)
- Delivered paper and speech at “*Inaugural Regional Arbitral Institutes Conference*” held by Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (2007, Singapore)
- Delivered presentation at “2007 *Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution Summit by Law Asia & Practice*” held by LawAsia (2007, Singapore)
- Adjunct Professor on engineering laws subjects, Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Hong Kong (2003-2006)
- Visiting Scholar to Dispute Resolution Centre, Bond University, Australia (2005 Jan)
- Visiting Scholar to Dispute Resolution Centre, Massey University, New Zealand (2005 Mar)
- Delivered speech at seminar series on “*Effective Construction Contract and Site Administration Practice*”, held by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (2005, Hong Kong)
- Visiting Lecturer (part-time) for CPD course for engineers on “*Construction Contract Claims*”, “*Project Procurement*”, “*Construction Contract Administration*”, “*Essential Laws for Project Managers*” the Management and Executive Development Centre of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (2002-2005)
- Delivered lecture on “*Features of Construction Arbitration*” at evening seminar for young engineers at the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (2003, Hong Kong)
- Delivered lecture on “*Documents Speak But Won't Tell: The Practical Side of Mediation*” at in-house seminar on “*Mediation and Arbitration*” for government officials at the Civil Engineering Department of Hong Kong Government (2002, Hong Kong)
- Delivered lecture on “*Construction Contracts & Security in Contracts*” at half-day seminar on “*Construction Payments: Law and Practice for Getting Paid*” (2002, Hong Kong) for lawyers and construction professionals organised by Hong Kong Legal and Economic Learning Association. (2002, Hong Kong)

Other Tribunal Experience

- Member of The Appeals Tribunal, The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers (2009-Present)
- Chairperson of Transport Tribunal, Hong Kong SAR Government (2008-Present)
- Panel Member of Transport Tribunal, Hong Kong SAR Government (2005-2008)
- Chairperson and Member of Disciplinary Committee of Social Workers Registration Board, Hong Kong SAR Government (2004-Present)
- Counsel before Inquiry Committee of Veterinary Surgeons Board, Hong Kong SAR Government
- Counsel before the Administrative Appeal Board, Hong Kong SAR Government

Public Services

- President of Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (2011-2012)

- Co-Founder of Hong Kong Legal Training Institute (2012)
- Hon. Secretary of Joint Mediation Helpline Office (2010-Present)
- Member of the Chief Justice's Working Party on Mediation (2009-2012)
- Chairperson of the Special Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution of the Hong Kong Bar Association (2010-Present)
- Chairman of Task Force on Construction Law and Committee Member of the Management Committee of Centre for Infrastructure and Construction Industry Development of the University of Hong Kong (2007-Present)
- President of Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (2006-2008)
- Panel Member of Transport Tribunal, Hong Kong SAR Government (2005-2008)
- Disciplinary Committee Panel Member of Social Workers Registration Board, Hong Kong SAR Government (2004-Present)
- Committee Member of the Special Committees on Mainland Practice and Relations of the Hong Kong Bar Association (2002-Present)
- Committee Member of the Special Committees on Alternative Dispute Resolution of the Hong Kong Bar Association (2003-2010)
- Hon. Secretary of The Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators (2000-2003 & 2005)

Areas of Professional Focus

Administrative Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, China, Computer, Conflict of Laws, Construction, E-commerce, Information Technology, International Arbitration, International Trade, Intellectual Property, Internet, Knowledge Management, Mediation, Professional Conduct, Unfair competition, Wine

Languages

Chinese (simplified and traditional; Cantonese and Putonghua), English