

Kennedy Chen

Partner

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance

Private Client Advisory



"Kennedy Chen is efficient,
responsive and creative."

Asialaw Profiles

Biography

Chen Jianhao Kennedy possesses immaculate track record consisting actual in-person footprint spanning ASEAN, APAC, the Americas, European Union, and Greater China/PRC, embodying actual, proven on-the-ground expertise with cross-border and Singapore law, corporate, transactional, financial, IPO, regulatory compliance, branding IP, risks/disputes management, private wealth and business strategy.

A leading Singapore lawyer, Kennedy Chen's focused multi-disciplinary practice covers:

1. Domestic and cross-jurisdiction M&A/company business establishment (private, public, including distressed or leveraged buyouts), shareholder relationships, pre-M&A/post-merger integration and reorganisation;
2. Private equity/venture capital;
3. IPO, equity/debt capital markets, securities financing (listing, post-listing obligations, fund-raising work-outs);
4. Funds formation/regulation;
5. FDI (Foreign Direct Investments), transnational inbound/outbound joint ventures;
6. Insolvent/solvent restructuring;
7. Regulatory/compliance;
8. Project/deal management;
9. Crisis or dispute prevention/control;
10. Commercial/business strategy structures (including branding IP); and negotiation methodologies.

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Practice Areas

Corporate and Financial Services
Regulation

Compliance

Private Client Advisory

Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws (Honours),
National University of Singapore

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Biography

Kennedy equates and derives success from your success. He's grateful, and proud, to be objectively regarded in recognised business and legal circles as an astute problem-solver consistently creating practical, commerce-centric, complete options beyond mere legal solutions to address challenges – a reliable trusted partner taking full ownership to add value to your goals where they matter.

Across sectors, industries, Kennedy feels fortunate to always be requested to advise stakeholders/clients keen to partake in, and benefit from, their desired personal, business, investment and commercial endeavours, concurrently anticipating regulatory, compliance and organisational risks. Kennedy speaks English, Mandarin, Min-Chinese, Cantonese and Bahasa, bringing to the table unique cultural, social awareness that further sets him apart as a trusted go-to adviser.

Football, golf, yoga and community/volunteering work count amongst Kennedy's other interests second to his legal, professional passion.

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Experience

- ASEAN FDI and cross-border joint ventures – Advised various Japanese conglomerates in ASEAN foreign direct investment projects including, amongst others, Mitsubishi Corporation's ventures into Myanmar under the Myanmar Investment Committee regulations.
- M&A and PPP – Represented and negotiated on behalf of Darussalam Assets in a PPP (public-private partnership) with foreign engineering partners for the construction, management and maintenance of a Bruneian naval base.
- Initial Public Offering/IPO – Sponsor's counsel in the HKEX listing of K Group Holdings, and Singapore counsel to the issuer in VS Media Holdings Limited's Nasdaq IPO (ticker: VSME), further advising on pre-IPO corporate structuring matters.
- Equity/debt capital markets – Singapore counsel to Hangzhou Changchuan Technology in its application to the China Securities Regulatory Commission to issue additional stock raising approximately US\$60M, and Singapore counsel to the issuer, a PRC listed engineering, precision engineering, prototyping and design manufacturing company, in a fund-raise exercise of RMB\$600M.
- Private equity and venture capital – Led PE and VC deals, including advising Gulf Islamic Investments in its S\$100M co-investment with its other investment partners into Encube Ethicals, and representing a leading Singapore-based private education group in a private equity injection by a government-linked agency.
- Domestic and cross-border M&A – Singapore sell-side and buy-side mandates in various sectors, including hotel and hospitality M&As, notably one involving the sale and purchase of a hospitality and hotel group located in Southeast Asia and parts of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

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Awards & Accolades

- "Mergers & Acquisitions Practice Excellence Award 2025" by the Law Society of Singapore
- "Southeast Asia Young Lawyer of the Year (1 of 15)" - Asian Legal Business 2025
- "M&A Rising Star Partner" – IFLR1000 2025
- "Southeast Asia 40 Under 40" - LexisNexis 2024
- "Asia (including Greater China) 40 Under 40" - LexisNexis 2024
- "Singapore's 21 Most Influential Lawyer Aged 40 and Under" - Singapore Business Review 2020

Publications

- Singapore chapter author for the "PRC Belt Road Initiative Guidebook" published by Eversheds Sutherlands US
- Contributing speaker for Bluente's interview series: "The Law as an Asset: Exploring Business Beyond Borders" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0BwmHzsS5U>)

Professional Memberships | Directorships

- Company Secretary of some SGX-listed companies
- First Singapore representative recognised on the mediator panel of the International Commercial Mediation Center for Belt and Road Initiative (established by the Beijing PRC Law Society and Beijing Civil Affairs Municipal Bureau)
- Member, Singapore Academy of Law
- Member, The Law Society of Singapore
- Monetary Authority of Singapore's Financial Disputes Resolution Centre (FIDReC) Panel
- Singapore Ministry of Law's Panel of Assessors for COVID-19 Temporary Relief
- Trainer and Facilitator Panel, Singapore Institute of Legal Education Preparatory Course and Singapore Bar Examinations

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