Kennedy Chen

Partner

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance



"Kennedy Chen is efficient, responsive and creative."

Asialaw Profiles

- kennedychen@harryelias.com
- +65 9685 1545
- Connect with me
- Download my V-Card

Biography

Chen Jianhao Kennedy (陈健豪), a Singapore lawyer with 16 years' legal practice experience advising stakeholders on a comprehensive lifecycle basis, provides legal, corporate commercial, corporate finance, arbitration/disputes, private/personal solutions and guidance. Kennedy Chen's specialised track record: mergers and acquisitions (M&A), foreign/domestic investment, private equity, venture capital, capital markets, initial public offerings (IPO), securities regulation, asset management/investment funds, regulatory compliance.

Whether you face important decisions, opportunities, challenges, or require clarity, Kennedy, a multi-disciplinary Singapore lawyer, strives to be your trusted first contact person. He seeks to be your asset, combining technical expertise with keen business acumen grounded in actual problem-solving and business experience locally, across ASEAN, APAC, European Union, the Americas, and PRC/Greater China.

For businesses, Kennedy advises on structuring growth/establishment, shareholder/investor relationships, transactions and compliance. This covers domestic/cross-border solvent/insolvent M&A, private equity, venture capital, distressed/debt restructurings, transactions, post-merger integration/reorganisations.

In your international ambitions, Kennedy leads foreign direct investments/FDI, outward direct investments/ODI, inbound/outbound expansions, cross-border business, investment and joint venture transactions.

For public/listed work, companies approach Kennedy on IPO/listings, equity/debt capital markets (ECM/DCM), securities/corporate financing, and stock exchange/listco continuing obligations, navigating complex laws and desired outcomes.

Practice Areas

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance

Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws (Honours), National University of Singapore

Kennedy Chen

Partner

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance



Biography

For multi-national-corporations with Singapore presence/subsidiaries, he advises on lawful, commercially-sound business-building.

In asset management/investment funds, variable capital companies (VCCs), fund managers and investors task Kennedy with necessary deals viability/evaluation, funds formation and ongoing regulatory compliance.

For private individuals, families, business owners/founders, he counsels on strategic risk-management, talent-retention, legacy-building, and value creation/preservation.

Leveraging HEP's full-service cross-disciplined capabilities, Kennedy gives support throughout entire lifecycles – contracts, data privacy, project management, crisis/disputes management, company restructuring, negotiation methodologies, branding/intellectual property, and related strategies. Himself a child of divorce, Kennedy also has experience advising on spousal-owned corporate/company assets in matrimonial disputes.

Kennedy measures his success by your success, purposefully formulating value-added, outcome-driven solutions for your endeavours. His straightforward, empathetic, client-centric approach: listening keenly with intention to what matters, understanding/anticipating pain-points and blind-spots, developing/communicating workable, practical, bespoke goal-oriented options. International/domestic publications objectively recognise Kennedy as a leading, complete legal adviser. Well-travelled, able to understand various languages and fluently speak English, Mandarin-Chinese, Hokkien, Cantonese whilst concurrently possessing strategic skillsets, Kennedy adds useful, valuable cultural awareness to his craft.

Football, yoga, golf, history, music, food, tech, fashion, management/branding philosophies and community volunteering count amongst Kennedy's interests, though always ranking second to his relentless passionate pursuit for professional excellence.

kennedychen@harryelias.com

+65 9685 1545

Connect with me

Download my V-Card

Practice Areas

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance

Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws (Honours), National University of Singapore

Kennedy Chen

Partner

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance



Experience

- ASEAN FDI/ODI 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 on the Singapore Exchange (SGX) and internationally (including HKEX, PRC, Nasdaq and ASX) – 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 a Shenzhen Stock Exchange listed technology company in two separate applications to the China Securities Regulatory Commission to issue additional stock respectively raising approximately US$60M and US$470M, 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

kennedychen@harryelias.com

+65 9685 1545

Connect with me

Download my V-Card

Practice Areas

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance

Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws (Honours), National University of Singapore

Kennedy Chen

Partner

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance



Awards & Accolades

- "Notable Practitioner" for M&A – IFLR1000 2026
- "Most Recommended in Corporate & Commercial and Mergers & Acquisitions" by the Straits Times' Singapore's 20 Top-Rated Lawyers 2027 - Kennedy is the first lawyer to be named in these two newly-introduced practice areas in the history of this Straits Times survey
- "Leading Corporate, Mergers & Acquisitions Lawyers (Singapore)" - Doyles Guide 2026
- "Mergers & Acquisitions Practice Excellence Award 2025" by the Law Society of Singapore - Kennedy is the sole lawyer to receive this inaugural award from 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 Lawyers 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 listed companies
- First Singapore representative recognised on the mediator panel of the International Commercial Mediation Centre 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

kennedychen@harryelias.com

+65 9685 1545

Connect with me

Download my V-Card

Practice Areas

Corporate and Financial Services Regulation

Compliance

Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws (Honours), National University of Singapore