

King & Spalding partner launches sole practice

Toby Fisher
05 May 2023



Peter Chow has left the partnership at King & Spalding in Singapore after four years to practise as an independent counsel and arbitrator.

Chow launched “Acacia Arbitration Chambers” last month. He tells GAR the chambers has been established for his own independent practice but that he is “open to other arbitration practitioners joining” in the future.

Chow says it was a “privilege to work with some of the best and most talented arbitration lawyers in the world” at King & Spalding, but that increasing conflicts of interest issues have impeded his work as arbitrator and counsel and prompted him to practise independently.

His practice will be based in Hong Kong and his native Singapore, focusing primarily on appointments as arbitrator “with perhaps some selected counsel work in international arbitration.”

Also admitted to practise in England & Wales, Victoria and New South Wales, Chow focuses on disputes in the energy, oil and gas, infrastructure and construction, and technology sectors.

He has previously represented a Dutch technology developer in [parallel cases](#) at CIETAC and NAI concerning a US\$2 billion dispute with China’s Sina Corporation; a US-owned timber company in [a US\\$3 billion SIAC-administered UNCITRAL claim](#) against Papua New Guinea; and a Chinese manufacturer in [an HKIAC-administered case](#) against a Malaysian carmaker worth more than US\$3 billion.

As arbitrator, Chow has heard ICC cases concerning a Taiwanese rail construction project and Philippine telecommunications project, seated in Singapore and London respectively. He has also sat as chair or sole arbitrator in HKIAC and UNCITRAL proceedings concerning shareholder disputes in jurisdictions including the Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands and Bermuda.

HKIAC secretary general **Mariel Dimsey** tells GAR that Chow’s move “reinforces the bench strength of the Asia-Pacific region’s international arbitrators and the attractiveness of the region for arbitrators to set up independent practice.”

“Peter, with his international profile and experience and strong ties to Hong Kong, will flourish as an independent arbitrator,” she adds.

Benjamin Hughes of Fountain Court Chambers says Chow will be “in high demand due to his vast experience in Asia, his knowledge of Chinese and his well-earned reputation as a collegial and commercially-minded arbitrator.”

Belgium's **Bernard Hanotiau** sat with Chow in a construction arbitration in Asia and describes him as “an outstanding arbitrator” with “a great knowledge of the industry and mastership of technical issues.”

Chow began his career in Singapore before moving to King & Wood Mallesons legacy firm Mallesons Stephen Jaques in Melbourne and later Hong Kong. He then spent several years at Baker McKenzie in Hong Kong and Bryan Cave, where he was head of international dispute resolution in Asia. He moved to Squire Patton Boggs in 2012 [to head the firm's Asia disputes practice](#), where he split his time between Singapore and Hong Kong, before [joining King & Spalding's](#) Singapore office in 2019.

Chow is a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration & ADR, and previously served as a member of the centre's arbitrator nomination committee. He was also a vice-president of the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators.

King & Spalding partner **Wade Coriell**, who recently [took over](#) as the firm's head of international arbitration, says: “Peter is an excellent lawyer, a trustworthy arbitrator, and a good man. We will miss his expertise in the energy and infrastructure space, and even more importantly his friendship and gentlemanly nature. I have no doubt Peter will achieve nothing but success in his new venture, and we wish him the absolute best.”

London-based partner **John Savage KC** concurs that “Peter is an excellent lawyer and advocate, and has been a great partner and friend.”

Coriell took over leadership of the international group at King & Spalding from **Ed Kehoe** last month, with **Elizabeth Silbert** in Atlanta becoming deputy head of the practice. **Isabel Fernández de la Cuesta** [also left the firm's New York partnership](#) last month to practise independently as arbitrator and counsel.

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