

**DVC Annual International Arbitration Conference 2026**

# A FRACTURED WORLD: EMERGING TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION



**20 OCTOBER 2026 (TUE)**

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**



**HKIAC**

38/F, Two Exchange Square  
8 Connaught Place  
Central, Hong Kong

Join us at the DVC International Arbitration Conference, a highlight of the 2026 Hong Kong Arbitration Week. Against a backdrop of geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, sanctions and rapid regulatory change, leading practitioners will examine emerging trends in international dispute resolution and the challenges facing businesses and investors in an increasingly fractured world.

The panel will explore the impact of geopolitical risk and sanctions on contractual performance and enforcement, the practical challenges of resolving disputes arising from regions affected by instability, and the evolving role of investment treaty protections. The discussion will also consider what makes an arbitral seat fit for purpose in turbulent times, drawing on the panellists' extensive experience to offer practical and forward-looking perspectives on the future of international arbitration.

## PROGRAMME

- 4:30 PM** REGISTRATION
- 5:00 PM** KEYNOTE SPEECH
- 5:15 PM** PANEL DISCUSSION  
A FRACTURED WORLD:  
EMERGING TRENDS IN  
INTERNATIONAL  
DISPUTE RESOLUTION
- 6:15 PM** Q&A
- 6:25 PM** CLOSING REMARKS



## PROGRAMME RUNDOWN

**5:00 PM**  
**KEYNOTE SPEECH**



**The Right Hon. the Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, GBS**  
Non-Permanent Judge, the Court of Final Appeal

**5:15 PM**  
**PANEL DISCUSSION**

### **A Fractured World: Emerging Trends in International Dispute Resolution**

In an era of profound global uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, economic instability, sanctions regimes and rapid regulatory change are reshaping the landscape of international commerce, and with it, the world of dispute resolution. When these fault lines erupt into flashpoints, it is often arbitrators and counsel who must pick up the pieces.

This panel brings together leading practitioners to examine the latest developments in commercial arbitration and investor-state dispute resolution against this shifting backdrop.

The discussion will range from the impact of geopolitical risk and sanctions on contractual performance and enforcement, to the evidential and practical challenges of resolving disputes rooted in regions affected by instability. It will also consider the expanding role of investment treaty protections where state measures harm foreign investments, and the qualities that make an arbitral seat fit for purpose in turbulent times.

The panel will share insights drawn from their extensive experience at the forefront of international disputes, offering both practical guidance and forward-looking perspectives on where the field is heading.

Expect a wide-ranging and candid conversation on the forces shaping international arbitration, today and in the years ahead.

#### **Speakers**

**Moderator**



**Jacqueline Law**  
Barrister-at-law  
Des Voeux Chambers



**The Hon. Robert C. Tang**  
GBM SBS QC SC JP  
Non-Permanent Judge  
the Court of Final Appeal



**Justice Georges Affaki**  
Judge  
Qatar International Court



**Dr Min Kyung Kim**  
Adjunct Professor  
City University of Hong Kong



**John Scott SC**  
Senior Counsel  
Des Voeux Chambers



**José Maurellet SC**  
Senior Counsel  
Des Voeux Chambers



**Catrina Lam SC**  
Senior Counsel  
Des Voeux Chambers

**6:15 PM**

**Q&A SESSION**

**6:25 PM**  
**CLOSING REMARKS**



**Dr William Wong SC**  
Head of Chambers  
Des Voeux Chambers

## KEYNOTE SPEECH



**The Right Hon.  
the Lord Neuberger of  
Abbotsbury, GBS**

**Non-Permanent Judge  
the Court of Final Appeal**



Individual Profile

Lord Neuberger graduated with a degree in natural science from Oxford and worked at a merchant bank until he entered Lincoln's Inn and was called to the English Bar in 1974. He specialised in property law and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1987 and became a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn in 1993.

From 1996 to 2004, he served as a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court. He was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in 2004 and a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in 2007. He became Master of the Rolls in 2009, and in 2012 he was appointed President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. He retired from that post in September 2017.

He has since been practising as an arbitrator, mediator and legal expert from One Essex Court. He became a Non-Permanent Judge of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal in 2009 and a Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court in 2018, and continues to sit in both courts.

Lord Neuberger was Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn in 2017, and was elected an honorary Fellow of the Royal Society the same year. He is an honorary Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He was appointed Chancellor of the University of Law in 2018. He has received honorary doctorates from UCL, Queen Mary London, York, Exeter, and Oxford. He is President of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, and of the Academy of Experts. He is chair of the Institute of Family Law Arbitrators. He is also a trustee of Mental Health Research UK and, a Patron of Prisoners Abroad, and of Sapere.

## SPEAKERS PROFILE

### PANEL DISCUSSION



**The Hon. Robert C. Tang**  
GBM, SBS, QC, SC, JP

Non-Permanent Judge  
the Court of Final Appeal



Individual Profile

The Hon. Robert C. Tang GBM, SBS, KC, SC, JP became a Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal in 2018. He received his legal education in England and obtained an LLB from the University of Birmingham in 1969. He was called to the English Bar at Gray's Inn in 1969 and to the Hong Kong Bar in 1970. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1986 and became Senior Counsel in 1997. He was a Recorder of the Court of First Instance from September 1995 until his appointment as a Judge of the Court of First Instance in April 2004. He was appointed Justice of Appeal in January 2005 and Vice President of the Court of Appeal in November 2006. He was appointed a Non-Permanent Hong Kong Judge of the Court of Final Appeal in September 2010. From 2012 to 2018, he served as a Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal.



**Justice Georges Affaki**

Judge  
Qatar International Court



Individual Profile

Justice Georges Affaki is a judge of the Qatar International Court, a Chartered Arbitrator, a member of the ICSID Panels of Arbitrators and of Conciliators, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration. He served two terms as a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration (ending in June 2021).

He is Empaneled with the leading international arbitral institutions on five continents (list available on request).

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) and serves on the International Financial Legal Experts Committee of the Shanghai High People's Court. He is recognised by Chambers amongst the Most-in-Demand Arbitrators in France, Europe and globally.

## SPEAKERS PROFILE

### PANEL DISCUSSION



**Dr Min Kyung Kim**

**Adjunct Professor**  
**City University of Hong Kong**



Individual Profile

Dr. Min Kyung Kim served as a judge in the Republic of Korea from February 2010 to August 2025, presiding over high-profile commercial, civil, administrative, and criminal cases. Over her judicial career, she authored more than 3,100 judgments in both first-instance and appellate courts. She has extensive expertise in international and cross-border commercial disputes, including arbitration-related matters, having served on the International Commercial List at the Seoul Central Court. In this role, she dealt with the enforcement and annulment of arbitral awards and the enforcement of international commercial contracts involving the CISG, shipping, sales, shipbuilding, licensing, construction, maritime insurance, property transactions, and agency agreements.

She is currently an Adjunct Professor at the City University of Hong Kong teaching international arbitration and has taught courses on international commercial litigation and arbitration at the University of Hong Kong, the National University of Singapore, and Singapore Management University.



**John Scott SC**

**Senior Counsel**  
**Des Voeux Chambers**



Individual Profile

Mr. Scott is an accomplished trial advocate with over 30 years' experience in a wide range of commercial disputes. He has earned a reputation for being a "smooth yet forceful advocate who knows how to cut to the chase". He has a long-standing track record in complex company, commercial, construction and arbitration cases and is active as both a litigator and an international arbitrator.

Mr. Scott is a Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple, and frequently sits as an arbitrator in Hong Kong, Singapore and elsewhere in the region. He has been appointed as arbitrator in substantial construction and infrastructure projects, and has sat as an ICC, SIAC and HKIAC appointed arbitrator in numerous disputes over the last 20 years. He recently co-authored the latest version of Halsbury's Laws Vol 25 on Arbitration (Cap. 609).

## SPEAKERS PROFILE

### PANEL DISCUSSION



**José Maurellet SC**

Senior Counsel  
Des Voeux Chambers



Individual Profile

José was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 2000 and to the Inner Bar in 2016. He was admitted in 2020 as a solicitor of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, British Virgin Islands circuit. He is also a registered foreign lawyer with rights of audience in the Singapore International Commercial Court.

He has sat as a Deputy High Court Judge for periods between 2018 to 2021, and since October 2021 has been appointed as a Recorder of the Court of First Instance.

José is currently the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association.

He has advised and acted in numerous shareholder disputes, winding up petitions, and applications arising out of liquidations of companies (for example applications for provisional liquidators, receivers, validation orders, private examinations, unfair preference proceedings). Jose has also dealt with director disqualification proceedings commenced by the Official Receiver as well as the SFC. He is a member of and previously on the board of directors of the International Insolvency Institute.



**Catrina Lam SC**

Senior Counsel  
Des Voeux Chambers



Individual Profile

Catrina is a senior counsel with a versatile practice encompassing all aspects of commercial disputes, including both domestic and international arbitrations, competition and regulatory matters, and administrative and constitutional law.

Catrina regularly appears as counsel in arbitrations and related court applications. She also serves as an arbitrator in a wide range of commercial disputes and is a member of the arbitrator panels for the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), the Shanghai International Arbitration Centre, and the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration.

Beyond her practice, Catrina is active in public service. She has served as a Temporary Deputy Registrar of the High Court and as a Deputy District Judge. She has also been appointed by the Hong Kong Government to various statutory appeal boards and tribunals. Since 2009, she has been served as the Secretary of the Middle Temple Society in Hong Kong and, in recognition of her contributions, was appointed an Honorary Member of The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in 2018.

## MODERATOR PROFILE

### PANEL DISCUSSION



**Jacqueline Law**

**Barrister-at-law**  
**Des Voeux Chambers**



Individual Profile

Jacqueline was awarded the Bar Scholarship and Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship in 2013. She is recognised as a Leading Junior for Commercial Disputes, as well as Family and Private Client, by Legal 500 (Asia Pacific HK Bar). Jacqueline has also passed the Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination in 2023. She is developing a broad civil and commercial practice in line with Chambers' profile with experience in arbitration-related matters, trust and probate, land and company and insolvency matters. She is also developing her practice as an arbitrator. She has been appointed as sole arbitrator by the HKIAC and is currently listed on the Main Arbitrator Panel of the Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (TIAC). She is currently a member of the Standing Committee on Pupillage & Limited Practice of the Hong Kong Bar Association.

## CLOSING REMARKS



**Dr William Wong SC**

**Head of Chambers**  
**Des Voeux Chambers**



Individual Profile

Dr. Wong has been in practice in Hong Kong since 1997. In 2010, he was also called to the Bar of the British Virgin Islands. In 2013, Dr. Wong was appointed as a Senior Counsel in Hong Kong. He is also presently a Non-Executive Director of the Airport Authority and one of the Vice Chairmen of the Board of Review of the Inland Revenue.

Dr. Wong's practice covers a wide spectrum of contentious commercial litigation. He has a special focus and substantial experience in the areas of company, insolvency and securities law. He frequently represents clients in contentious shareholders and/or investors disputes and disputes in liquidation. He is the first Hong Kong barrister to be admitted, on an ad hoc basis, in the Bermudian courts to conduct trials and appeals. He is experienced in offshore litigation. He also acted as an expert witness on HK company law in the People's Republic of China, and international arbitration. Dr. Wong is also granted rights of audience in the Astana International Financial Centre Court and sits as an arbitrator in numerous international commercial arbitrations.



Website



Wechat



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*"DVC is the go-to chambers for complex matters."*

*"They have a lot of experienced silks and senior juniors, many of them leading experts in their fields."*

## Chambers & Partners Greater China Region Guide 2026



## About Des Voeux Chambers

Des Voeux Chambers ("DVC") was founded in 1984. Today, DVC is both a leading set and the largest set of barristers' chambers in Hong Kong, comprising 104 practising barristers. Whilst justifiably proud of its history, DVC's focus is on the 'here and now' and going forward. DVC has planned for and continues to plan for the future.

As of 2026, 25 members of DVC have been appointed Senior Counsel in Hong Kong and/or King's Counsel in England & Wales. DVC's well-established and structured intern, pupillage and recruitment policies are designed to create solid foundations for the future by ensuring that junior members are selected from the very top graduates in Hong Kong and elsewhere, with 38 Bar Scholars currently at DVC.

In 2025, DVC established the List of Independent Neutrals, which consists of individuals and specialists who, with respect to any issue in controversy, function impartially to aid parties in resolving the dispute, whether through mediation, arbitration, adjudication, private judging, or any other form of alternative dispute resolution, without practising as barristers. Members of List of Neutrals are independent from the operation of Des Voeux Chambers as a set of Barristers' chambers, and do not participate in the affairs at Des Voeux Chambers.

Several members are qualified to practice in other jurisdictions including the People's Republic of China, England & Wales, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, the United States of America, Bermuda, and the British Virgin Islands.