



Simon Chapman QC

Partner, Regional Head of Disputes – Asia

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Experience

Simon leads the Asia disputes practice at Herbert Smith Freehills. His practice covers commercial and investment treaty arbitration under all of the major arbitral rules, including HKIAC, ICC, SIAC, LCIA, ICSID and UNCITRAL. Simon has particular expertise in complex and high-value disputes, notably claims in fraud and breach of warranty, as well as post-M&A, joint venture and shareholder disputes. He has acted for governments, state-owned entities, sovereign wealth funds and corporations across a range of industries, including the energy, private equity, finance, hospitality and TMT sectors.

In addition to his work as counsel, Simon regularly sits as arbitrator and has experience as presiding arbitrator, co-arbitrator and sole arbitrator across a range of institutional and ad hoc cases. He is dual-qualified in Hong Kong and England and Wales, with higher rights of audience in both jurisdictions. Simon took silk in 2020.

Recent arbitral appointments

- Appointed as **Presiding Arbitrator** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules between a Russian party and a Hong Kong party concerning a share purchase agreement
- Appointed as **Presiding Arbitrator** in proceedings under the SIAC Rules arising from a shareholder dispute between a Hong Kong company and a US retail business
- Appointed as **Presiding Arbitrator** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules between a Hong Kong company and a South Korean company in a matter concerning payments under a guarantee
- Appointed as **Co-Arbitrator** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules between a BVI company and a Hong Kong company in relation to the alleged breach of a supply agreement
- Appointed as **Co-Arbitrator** in proceedings under the ICC Rules seated in Hong Kong in relation to the termination of a joint venture in Mainland China
- Appointed as **Sole Arbitrator** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules regarding the termination of a joint venture agreement
- Appointed as **Sole Arbitrator** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules arising from multiple agreements concerning enforcement of a debt and associated security
- Appointed as **Sole Arbitrator** in proceedings under the SIAC Rules between a Chinese party and a Singaporean company relating to the alleged breach of a sales agreement
- Appointed as **Sole Arbitrator** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules between a Danish party and a Chinese party concerning a Clean Development Mechanism arrangement
- Appointed as **Sole Arbitrator** in proceedings under the ICC Rules, seated in Hong Kong, concerning alleged wrongful termination of an Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement
- Appointed as **Sole Arbitrator** in *ad hoc* proceedings seated in Singapore under the UNCITRAL Rules concerning alleged breaches of a contract for the sale and purchase of iron ore
- Appointed as **Sole Arbitrator** in arbitration proceedings under the SIAC Rules between two energy companies concerning the supply of oil products



Recent experience as counsel

- Counsel for **Sinopec** in US\$ 5.5 billion arbitration under the SIAC Rules concerning allegations of fraud and breach of warranty arising from the acquisition of assets in Europe
- Counsel for the **Government of Malaysia** in a US\$1.2 billion arbitration against the Republic of Singapore concerning the interpretation of a bilateral treaty
- Counsel and advocate for a **private equity firm** in defending a fraud and misrepresentation claim valued in excess of US\$ 1 billion under the ICC Rules arising from a share purchase agreement
- Counsel for a **private equity firm** in a major sponsor-to-sponsor dispute under the HKIAC Rules concerning the sale of an asset in Korea
- Counsel for a **private equity firm** in a US\$ 2 billion arbitration under the ICC Rules in relation to a dispute under a shareholders' agreement
- Counsel for a **leading Chinese renewable energy company** in LCIA proceedings worth US\$900 million arising under a New York law take-or-pay contract
- Counsel for a **leading cryptocurrency platform** in a US\$ 90 million arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules regarding an investment agreement
- Counsel for a **global investment bank** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules regarding an investment in China
- Counsel for a **Philippine energy company** in ICC proceedings in Singapore concerning a geothermal power plant
- Counsel for a **leading Asian sovereign wealth fund** in proceedings under the HKIAC Rules arising from the exit of an investment in Mainland China
- Represented a **European investment company** in HKIAC proceedings seated in Hong Kong arising from the breakdown of a joint venture in China
- Represented a **Chinese energy company** in proceedings seated in Hong Kong under the HKIAC Administered Arbitration Rules against a joint venture partner
- Counsel for a **Hong Kong company** in ICC proceedings in Singapore concerning the sale of a business in China
- Represented a **global energy major** on a tax dispute arising from the disposal of assets in South-East Asia, including potential investment treaty claims against the host Government and ICC arbitration proceedings against a State-owned energy company
- Counsel for a **Chinese pharmaceutical company** in HKIAC proceedings seated in Hong Kong arising from a dispute with a foreign investor
- Counsel for a **South-East Asian client** in its successful claim against a joint venture partner in ICC arbitration in Hong Kong
- Represented an **international financial services group** in arbitration proceedings in Singapore under the International Arbitration Association Rules
- Represented a **global investment bank** in proceedings concerning the alleged mis-selling of forex options, including successful applications to stay court proceedings in Singapore and New York

Recent accolades

- Band 1, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration (International Firms) – China (Chambers and Partners, 2022)
- Ranked as a Leading Individual for International Arbitration in China (Legal 500)
- “*Simon Chapman QC is praised by one client for being ‘very strong on legal analysis, persuasive in oral pleadings and a strategic thinker’, while another source brands him the ‘best cross-examiner in the room’.*” (Chambers and Partners, International Arbitration (China), 2021)
- Global Leader, Who’s Who Legal (Arbitration) 2021