

## ASIA

2008

## A Client's Guide

## Jones Day is ranked as follows:

## CHINA

## CONSTRUCTION

## Construction: Foreign

## Leading Firms

## Band 1

Jones Day

## Leading Individuals

## Band 1

Howlett Ashley Jones DayT

## Jones Day

**The Firm:** This US law firm's China construction team is predominantly based in Beijing, although it also has capacity in the firm's Shanghai office. Particularly noted for its work for US companies investing in China, the team

also offers expertise in representing a range of other foreign investors and multinationals, construction companies and engineers in connection with construction projects in China. In addition, it is increasingly representing large Chinese corporates, construction companies and engineers in relation to overseas construction projects. Although the bulk of the practice's work is non-contentious and involves advising on construction and engineering issues connected with infrastructure and major projects, the lawyers also assist with construction disputes and dispute avoidance.

**The Lawyers:** Head of the firm's Greater China construction practice, **Ashley Howlett** works out of the Beijing office and was described by

interviewees as "*probably the most famous foreign construction lawyer you'll come across in China.*" He was also noted for his recently published text on Chinese construction law, 'PRC Construction Law – A Guide for Foreign Companies'. Highlight work for Howlett includes advising Hitachi Global Storage Technologies on the USD500 million construction of a new computer memory components manufacturing facility in Shenzhen.

**Clients/Work Highlights:** Clients include Bilfinger Berger, Chun Wo Construction & Engineering and China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong).

## FOREIGN

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

## Dispute Resolution: Foreign

## Leading Firms

## Band 1

Jones Day

## Leading Individuals

## Band 2

Howlett Ashley Jones Day

Tan Johnson Jones Day

## Jones Day

**The Firm:** This global, US-headquartered firm dates back to 1893. The "*strength and depth*" of its recently established Greater China offices is "*of great help with dispute resolution,*" particularly in commercial and banking work. With

a PRC presence in Beijing and Shanghai, clients praise its "*excellent and effective*" guidance regarding strategic decisions and corporate advisory work, and "*would not hesitate to use them again.*"

**The Lawyers:** "*Personable and accomplished*" **Ashley Howlett** not only heads the construction practice in Greater China from his Beijing base, but is also a skilled general dispute resolution practitioner. He is qualified across three jurisdictions, and clients appreciate the insight and international experience he brings to the table. **Johnson Tan** is the firm's senior partner in Beijing. A dispute resolution practitioner of some 20 years' standing, he is qualified in Hong Kong, England and Wales, and various Australian jurisdictions. He inspires confi-

dence with his "*experience and knowledge of the territory,*" and clients find his approach "*extremely professional and to the point.*"

**Clients/Work Highlights:** The firm acted for KPMG in tracing an USD800 million hedge fund's dissipated assets, involving jurisdictions including Canada, the Cayman Islands, Israel and Hong Kong. It also acted for Equitable PCI Bank in Hong Kong High Court litigation regarding a securities disposal, concerning a Philippines-listed company. Other clients include The Bank of East Asia; China State Construction Engineering; Hitachi Global Storage Technologies; Morgan Stanley and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

## FOREIGN

# HONG KONG

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Dispute Resolution
Leading Firms
Band 3
Jones Day

**Jones Day**

**The Firm:** This “esteemed” US-headquartered firm is recognised for its corporate advisory

work and its burgeoning China practice. Its Hong Kong office has recognised strengths in dispute resolution, particularly compliance work. Clients value the fact that it “gets involved in strategic decisions” and the firm is also visible in white-collar crime and real estate disputes.

**The Lawyers:** Robert Thomson is the main dispute resolution contact partner in the Hong Kong office.

**Clients/Work Highlights:** The firm acted for KPMG on the tracing and recovery of dissipated assets originating from a USD800 million Portus Group hedge fund. Other clients include the Bank of East Asia; BOC International; Citigroup; Grant Thornton and PCCW.

# TAIWAN

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Dispute Resolution
Leading Firms
Band 2
Jones Day

Leading Individuals
Band 2
Chang Victor Jones Day
Chao Marianne Jones Day
Band 3
Chen Jason Jones Day

**Jones Day**

**The Firm:** Three partners and seven associates give this firm a secure foothold in dispute resolution. The outfit is best known for its comprehensive transactional coverage, but it is working hard to bolster its litigation ability. Supported by an international network, the team has been active in some of the leading projects-related disputes. In arbitration, it is

praised for not only reaching favourable results, but also successfully enforcing judgments before domestic courts. Elsewhere, the group has flourished on insurance disputes, white-collar crime and IP. Clients rate the outfit as “one of the more important law firms,” and commend the team for its “very structured approach and great teamwork.”

**The Lawyers:** Victor Chang is a multi-talented lawyer with a Taiwanese, US and Chinese education. His work includes major arbitrations, IP and white-collar crime. Clients say that “he is assertive and direct” and “he has an intellectual style, coupled with the ability to analyse the situation quickly, get to the crux of the problem and find the solution.” Described as “a pleasure to work with,” Marianne Chao garners praise for her work in arbitration, construction disputes and general civil litigation. Clients find her straight approach refreshing: “I appreciate her accurate summary of the situation - she is always excellent at explaining even difficult things.” Jason Chen

“has come into his own in the last two years.” He is “talented, hard-working, detailed and accurate.” As a former IP judge, he is also fêted for his exhaustive knowledge in this area.

**Clients/Work Highlights:** The team defended Matra Transport (now part of Siemens) against a claim brought by the Department of Rapid Transit Systems, and helped enforce an arbitral award in Matra’s favour. The group assisted the firm’s corporate team with the first hostile public takeover case in Taiwan, acting for China Development Financial Holding, and advised the management of SYSTEX, a shareholder in the joint venture company operating Taiwan’s freeway electronic toll collection system, on legality issues pertaining to the joint venture. A highlight in the insurance field was the team’s representation of Hiep Phuoc Power (a power plant in Vietnam) in a civil appeal to the Taiwan High Court. Other clients include Alcatel and Central Trading & Development.