Hong Kong is a prime venue for dispute resolution through arbitration and mediation:

- Mature and well-developed legal system and large pool of experienced professionals
- Hong Kong arbitral awards enforceable in over 150 Contracting States to the New York Convention and this is complemented by reciprocal enforcement arrangements with Mainland China and Macao

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What people say

Matthew Gearing QC (Chairman):

"Hong Kong is a well-established seat for arbitration conveniently located in the heart of Asia, with a sophisticated legal system and an independent pro-arbitration judiciary."

Nils Eliasson (Partner, International Arbitration):

"Nowhere else in Asia than Hong Kong offers such unparalleled access to clients throughout the region in a business environment that is equally approachable for Asian and Western enterprises and where the rule of law, independent judiciary and a tried and trusted common law system are part of the city’s DNA."

Tom Shaw (Partner):

"Hong Kong's strong synergies with English law, openness to new business entrants and accessibility to a growing number of high net-worth individuals in Asia make the city an ideal fit for Charles Russell Speechlys."

Hong Kong’s Legal System

The conversion of the remaining parts of the former Central Government Offices (CGO) and the former French Mission Building (FMB) is underway to provide a prime location for local, regional and international law-related organisations. Together with offices of the Department of Justice (DoJ) in other parts of the former CGO, the whole area will form a legal hub in the heart of Hong Kong – a poignant and physical reminder of the importance of the legal system to Hong Kong's success past, present and future.

The first 17 law-related organisations will move into new offices at the West Wing of the former CGO and the former FMB, a declared monument built in 1917. Office space is expected to be available starting from around mid-2019.
Hong Kong has scored above 90 (out of 100) consistently since 2003 in the aggregate indicator in respect of the rule of law; Hong Kong’s percentile rank in respect of rule of law has improved from 69.9 in 1996 to 93.8 in 2017.

The Basic Law preserves Hong Kong’s common law system.
Judicial independence is constitutionally protected.
A sound government world-renowned for its efficiency, transparency and zero tolerance for corruption.
Economic freedom and other fundamental rights are constitutionally guaranteed.
Top international rating in many global reports and indexes.

“One Country, Two Legal Systems”

A Special Administrative Region with a high degree of autonomy under “one country, two systems” as implemented by the Basic Law:
- Access to justice under a common law system
- Overseas judges sitting at the apex court with power of final adjudication
- Over 250 multilateral or bilateral agreements entered into by or on behalf of “Hong Kong, China” in fields including economic, trade, financial and monetary, shipping, communications, tourism, cultural and sports
- Both English and Chinese being official languages and all local legislation enacted bilingually with both texts being equally authentic.

Global Legal Hub
- Presence of international bodies which include:
  - The International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-ICA)
  - China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CETAC)
  - Asia Pacific Regional Office of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HPC)
  - Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Asia Pacific
- Host Country Agreement between Central People’s Government and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); and
- Standing arrangement between the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

High International Ranking
- World No.4 in the efficiency of legal framework in settling disputes (World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report 2018)
- Asia’s No.2 and No.14 globally in the Worldwide Governance Indicators project of the World Bank Group released in 2018 with data through 2017
  - Hong Kong has scored above 90 (out of 100) consistently since 2003 in the aggregate indicator in respect of the rule of law.
  - Hong Kong’s percentile rank in respect of rule of law has improved from 69.9 in 1996 to 93.8 in 2017.
- Asia’s No.1 and No.3 globally in the Human Freedom Index 2018 (Cato Institute) by scoring 8.78 (out of 10), with Integrity of Legal System scored at 8.3.

Large Pool of Experienced Professionals
Hong Kong’s strong legal infrastructure is served by:
- About 9,900 practising solicitors and about 1,500 practising barristers (including about 100 Senior Counsel)
- About 1,500 registered foreign lawyers from over 30 jurisdictions with over 80 registered foreign law firms
- About 2,200 mediators accredited by the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited
- Industry-led legal bodies include: the Hong Kong Bar Association; the Law Society of Hong Kong; Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre; Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators; Hong Kong Mediation Centre; Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited; Asian Academy of International Law; and Hong Kong Insurance Law Association Limited.