

Dr BENNY LO

Barrister and Chartered Arbitrator

MA (Cantab) PhD C.Arb FCI Arb

DES VOEUX CHAMBERS

38/F, Gloucester Tower

The Landmark, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: 25263071

Fax: 28105287

E-mail: Benny.Lo@dvc.hk

PRACTICE SUMMARY

Benny Lo is an independent barrister and international arbitrator. A graduate of Cambridge University law school and a self-employed tenant at Des Voeux Chambers, Benny focuses on civil and commercial, corporate, intellectual property, investment and sports dispute resolution and advises and represents clients in court litigation and international arbitration.

Alongside his litigation practice, Benny receives engagements as counsel and appointments as arbitrator in international arbitrations. He has been engaged in international arbitrations either as Lead Counsel, Co-Counsel, Sole Arbitrator, Presiding Arbitrator, Co-Arbitrator or Emergency Arbitrator. He has been described by leading legal directories as “one the best arbitration specialists at the Hong Kong Bar” (WWL 2024), “one of the most experienced and in-demand arbitrators of the younger generation in Hong Kong” (Legal 500 2023), and “a rising star in the Asian arbitrators scene” (Lexology Index 2025).

As arbitrator, Benny’s jurisdiction award on a public policy issue was concurred by the Hong Kong High Court in *Grandom Asia Holding Ltd v Henry Wai & Co (a firm)* [2018] 1 HKLRD 808, the first time the arbitrability of solicitor-client fee disputes was considered. Benny was also appointed as co-arbitrator in an investor-state arbitration under the US-Korea Free Trade Agreement (*Jin Hae Seo v The Republic of Korea*), sitting together with a former Judge of the International Court of Justice and a former member of the International Law Commission of the United Nations. In May 2020, Benny was appointed as one of the eight arbitrators constituting the Basketball Arbitral Tribunal (BAT), set up pursuant to the statutes of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) in Geneva. In November 2025, Benny was appointed to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in Lausanne.

Outside private practice, Benny is also active in public service. Since 2017, he has been appointed by the Chief Justice of Hong Kong to sit as a deputy judicial officer, including as Temporary Deputy Registrar, High Court and as a Deputy District Judge. His High Court decision in *Deltatre SPA v Hong Kong Sports Industrial Development Ltd* [2018] 4 HKLRD 478 resolved conflicting lines of authorities on the court’s approach to exclusive jurisdiction clauses. It was followed by the Court of Appeal of Singapore in *Vinmar Overseas (Singapore) Pte Ltd v PTT International Trading Pte Ltd* [2018] SGCA 65 in which the Court of Appeal overruled of its own line of earlier decisions based on *The Jian He* [1999] 3 SLR(R) 432.

Prior to joining the legal profession, Benny had enjoyed a first career in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. He devoted 6 years to scientific research, including as Croucher Foundation fellow to Nobel Laureate Prof. Sir Gregory Winter FRS at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, University of Cambridge, researching into protein and antibody engineering. By virtue of this background, Benny is also regularly engaged in intellectual property, licensing and distributorship disputes with a life science, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology dimension.

AFFILIATIONS TO ARBITRAL INSTITUTIONS

(a) Arbitrator panels, etc

- HKIAC (Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre) – Panel of Arbitrators, Panel of Emergency Arbitrators, Panel of Arbitrators for Intellectual Property Disputes
- SIAC (Singapore International Arbitration Centre) – Panel of Arbitrators (with Emergency Arbitrator endorsement)
- CIETAC (China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission) – Panel of Arbitrators
- BAC/BIAC (Beijing Arbitration Commission / Beijing International Arbitration Centre) – Panel of Arbitrators
- SHIAC (Shanghai International Arbitration Centre) – Panel of Arbitrators
- SCIA (Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration) – Panel of Arbitrators
- LCIA (London Court of International Arbitration) – Database of Arbitrators
- KCAB (Korean Commercial Arbitration Board) – Panel of International Arbitrators
- WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) – List of Arbitrators
- CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sports) – List of Arbitrators (General)
- BAT (Basketball Arbitral Tribunal, established pursuant to the statutes of FIBA, the International Basketball Federation) – Arbitrator

APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC OFFICES

(a) Judicial

- Temporary Deputy Registrar, High Court of Hong Kong (12.2017, 12.2019, 6.2022)
- Deputy District Judge, District Court of Hong Kong (1.2017, 9.2025)

(b) Quasi-judicial

- Member, Copyright Tribunal, Hong Kong (since 2020)

(c) Others

- Member, Proceedings Committee of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) (since 2024)

- Member, Advisory Body on Outcome Related Fee Structures for Arbitration under Part 10B of the Hong Kong Arbitration Ordinance (Cap. 609) (since 2022)
- Former Chairman, Appeal Tribunal Panel (Buildings), Hong Kong (2015-2024)
- Former Member, Hong Kong Law Reform Commission subcommittee on “Outcome-based Fee Structures for Arbitration” (2019-2021)
- Former Member, Liquor Licensing Board, Hong Kong (2018-2021)
- Former Member, Fishermen Claims Appeal Board (Trawl Ban), Hong Kong (2017-2023)
- Former Member, Appeal Panel (Housing), Hong Kong (2017-2021)

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS, ETC.

- Barrister of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (since 2008)
- Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow, The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- Accredited General Mediator, Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL) and the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- Member, Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA)

SELECTED AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2007	Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship, Hong Kong Bar Association
2001, 1998	Croucher Foundation Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Research and Research Scholarship for Ph.D. studies
1997	Fitzhugh Memorial Prize for the most outstanding student, University of Nottingham, UK
1997	Anita and Nicola Lee Prize for Research, University of Nottingham, UK

EDUCATION

2006-2007	University of Hong Kong Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) with Distinction
2004-2006 2010	University of Cambridge, UK Bachelor of Arts (Law Tripos) (with firsts in Contract, Land and Equity) Master of Arts

	University of Nottingham, UK
1998-2001	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in pharmaceutical biotechnology
1994-1997	Bachelor of Pharmacy (1 st Class Honours & Top of Year)

LANGUAGES

English; Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese, both written and spoken)

November 2025