

Grace Cheng

Call: 2016 (England & Wales); 2013 (Solicitor, Hong Kong SAR); 2020 (AIFC (Kazakhstan))

Grace is a barrister in London, is admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong, and has been granted rights of audience before the Astana International Finance Centre (AIFC) Court in Kazakhstan. She is regularly instructed as sole counsel on a broad range of matters and was involved as part of a wider team in the Brexit ferry case. She is a member of the Attorney General's Civil Counsel Panel (Junior Juniors Scheme) and is also a TECBAR adjudicator and on the panel of arbitrators for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).



Prior to joining the English Bar, Grace worked as a trainee solicitor and then as an Associate at the Hong Kong and London offices of Slaughter and May, where she assisted with high-profile international commercial transactions and advised clients including the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Moody's, MTR Corporation Limited, Prada and Standard Chartered plc. She has taught law at undergraduate level at the University of Oxford, King's College London and the University of Warwick, and was a Visiting Professor at the National Taiwan University and the National Chengchi University where she taught courses on FinTech and Derivatives, and International Business Dispute Settlement respectively.

Grace was judicial assistant to the Honourable Mr Justice Blair when he was the Judge in Charge of the Commercial Court, and assisted Professor Ewan McKendrick with the latest edition of *Goode on Commercial Law*, a widely-used text by practitioners and academics including assuming primary responsibility for updating chapters 38 (commercial litigation)

Field Court Chambers
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and 39 (commercial arbitration) of the book. She has published articles in leading journals including a piece co-written with Sir William Blair in the Bank of Italy's Legal Research Working Papers. Grace has also coached moot teams from The University of Oxford and The University of Hong Kong in prestigious international moot competitions. She has been a judge at the international rounds of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition held at Oxford and the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition held at the United Nations in Geneva. Grace has also sat as an arbitrator at the CIETAC Cup International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition held in Beijing and at the inaugural online hearing of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Grace obtained a First Class Honours degree in law from the London School of Economics and Political Science and the Bachelor of Civil Law postgraduate degree from the University of Oxford. She is fluent in English, Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese and has a working knowledge of French and Spanish, and previously assisted at the World Trade Organisation ministerial conference.

Outside of work, Grace is a great sports enthusiast and joined the University of London Officers Training Corps as an Officer Cadet and has successfully completed the Hong Kong marathon, the 100km Oxfam Trailwalker and the 100 miles Nijmegen March. She was a school speaker for UNICEF and has obtained the ATCL Diploma in piano. Her 'A day in the life of' column was featured in Family Law LexisNexis. Grace was also featured in the Chancery Bar Association's 'Meet the Chancery barristers' career's guide.

If you would like any further information regarding Grace Cheng's practice, please contact her [clerks](#) or call +44 (0)20 7405 6114.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Administrative and Public Law
- Arbitration / mediation
- Company / commercial
- Construction
- Employment

- Family
- Asylum and immigration
- Insolvency
- Intellectual property / media & entertainment
- Personal injury
- Professional negligence
- Property
- Regulatory Work

NOTABLE CASES

- *Eurotunnel v Secretary of State for Transport*: Brexit ferry case

Grace acted for the Secretary of State for Transport and assisted as part of a wider team in the case of *Eurotunnel v Secretary of State for Transport* which settled on 1 March 2019. This was a procurement claim involving a challenge by Eurotunnel to capacity contracts awarded by the Government to DFDS, Brittany Ferries, and Seaborne Freight to provide additional freight capacity between the UK and continental Europe. The contracts were procured under the ‘extreme urgency’ provisions in regulation 32(2)(c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to deal with the consequences of a ‘no-deal Brexit’.

- *Mr S Kisitu v Inclusive Care Support Ltd*: 3200241/2018

Grace successfully appeared on behalf of the Claimant in a claim for age discrimination and race discrimination.

Assisted with the following matters at Slaughter and May:

- Advising CITIC Securities Corporate Finance (HK) Limited on the cash offer made on behalf of a controlling shareholder of China XLX Fertiliser Ltd (China XLX) for the shares of China XLX, one of the largest manufacturers of coal-based urea and compound fertilisers in China. The cash offer was made in connection with the proposal to delist the

shares of China XLX from the Singapore Exchange, with the shares remaining listed on the Hong Kong Exchange

- Advising China Power International Development Limited, the flagship company of China Power Investment Corporation, one of the five national power generation groups in China, in relation to its issue of RMB 2 billion 4.5% bonds due 2017
- Advising MTR Corporation in relation to the construction and commissioning of the Shatin to Central Link, one of the most significant infrastructure projects to be undertaken in Hong Kong
- Advising an international banking group in respect of the global IBOR investigations, including the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's HIBOR investigation in Hong Kong
- Advising Cathay Pacific Airways and Swire Pacific Limited on the annual update of their debt issuance programmes

Assisted with the following decision given by The Board of Appeal of the European Supervisory Authorities, as Judicial Assistant to The Honourable Mr Justice Blair:

- *FinancialCraft Analytics Sp. z o.o. (formerly named Global Rating Sp. z o.o.) v The European Securities and Markets Authority* (Ref. BoA 2017 01)

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong – 2013
- Called to the Bar of England and Wales (*Lincoln's Inn; Member of Denning Society*) – 2016
- Granted rights of audience before the Astana International Finance Centre (AIFC) Court in Kazakhstan – 2020
- Panel of arbitrators – Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)
- TECBAR Adjudicator

- Qualified to undertake Public Access work
- The London School of Economics and Political Science, *LLB Bachelor of Laws*
- The University of Oxford, *Bachelor of Civil Law*
- The University of Hong Kong, *The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws*

CAREER AND APPOINTMENTS

- Member of the Attorney General's Civil Counsel Panel (Junior Juniors Scheme)
- Slaughter and May – *Trainee solicitor, Associate*
- The University of Oxford – *Law tutor*
- King's College London – *Visiting lecturer*
- The University of Warwick – *Law tutor*
- National Taiwan University – *Visiting professor*
- National Chengchi University – *Visiting professor*
- The Honourable Mr Justice Blair, Judge in Charge of the Commercial Court – *Judicial assistant*
- Professor Ewan McKendrick – *Research assistant*
- Mooting Coach for the University of Oxford (2016 International Monroe E. Price Media Law Moot Court competition, quarter-finals; 2018 Nelson Mandela Human Rights Moot Court Competition, semi-finals and winner of preliminary rounds and best oralist award) and the University of Hong Kong (2014 International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot competition, semi-finals)

AWARDS

- Blackstone Chambers Prize for Best Performance in Public Law
- Hogan Lovells Prize for Best Performance in the Law of Business Associations
- Hou De Charitable Foundation Scholarship for the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programme
- Joint Hong Kong Law Society / Bloomsbury Books Prize
- The Eastham Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn Pupillage Award)
- Hong Kong Law Society International Bar Association Annual Conference Sponsorship Award
- Hong Kong Law Society Inter-Pacific Bar Association Annual Conference Sponsorship Award
- International Association of Young Lawyers Scholarship Award
- Worshipful Company of Arbitrators Travelling Scholarship
- The Law Society Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme, Silver Award
- The Hong Kong Council of Volunteering Professional Volunteer Service, Gold Award
- Harvard Book Prize
- South China Morning Post Student Linguist of the Year, Special Recognition Award

PUBLICATIONS

- The Continuing Triumph of 'Bright Line' Rules: *Rothwell* revisited (2017) 25 Tort Law Review 3
- "You're fired": The Blacklisting of Workers in the Construction Industry (2017) 33 Construction Law Journal 403
- E-Money: Evolution or revolution? (2018) 33(2) Journal of International Banking Law and Regulation 56
- What's in a name? (2018) 1 International Family Law Journal 50

- **The role of judicial review in the EU's financial architecture and the development of alternative remedies: The experience of the Board of Appeal of the European Supervisory Authorities** (2018) 84 Quaderni di Ricerca Giuridica published by Banca d'Italia 17 (co-authored with Sir William Blair)
- **In Code we trust? Trustlessness and smart contracts** (co-authored with Mimi Zou and Marta Soria Heredia) originally published by the [Society for Computers and Law](#) (April 2019) and in abridged form by the [Oxford Business Law Blog](#) (University of Oxford)

Grace assisted Professor Ewan McKendrick with the latest edition of *Goode on Commercial Law*, a widely-used text by practitioners and academics and assumed primary responsibility for updating chapters 38 (commercial litigation) and 39 (commercial arbitration) of the book. She was previously an associate editor of the Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal.

LANGUAGES

- English
- Cantonese Chinese
- Mandarin Chinese
- French
- Spanish

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Bar Council – member of International Arbitration Focus Group
- The Chancery Bar Association (ChBA) – member of the International Sub-Committee and the Junior Chancery Bar Committee
- The Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

- Young Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HK45)
- International Chamber of Commerce Young Arbitrators Forum (ICC YAF)
- International Law Association (ILA)
- The London Court of International Arbitration Young International Arbitration Group (LCIA YIAG)
- Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (YICCA)
- Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)

PRIVACY NOTICE

Privacy Notice – Grace Cheng – 21.10.19