

William Z. Ho

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Will Ho is a partner and a member of the Private Equity, Corporate and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) practice groups. Will's experience covers cross-border M&A deals, private equity and venture capital, privatizations, and strategic investments.

In addition to representing major private equity funds in their investments across Asia, Will also represents early to late-stage technology companies on all aspects of their capital raisings, joint ventures, acquisitions, and exits.

He has advised a number of Hong Kong-listed issuers and investment banks on a wide range of capital markets and public M&A transactions, including privatizations, securities offerings (primary and secondary), as well as private investment in public equity (PIPE) transactions.

Will was recognized by Asian Legal Business as one of the Super 50 TMT (Technology, Media and Telecommunications) Lawyers in Asia in 2023, and by LexisNexis in both its 40 UNDER 40 (Asia) List and 40 UNDER 40 (Greater China) List in 2024. He has also been recognized in The Legal 500 Asia Pacific since 2022 as being “an excellent lawyer all round” with “great technical knowledge”.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* as a Recommended Lawyer
  - Corporate (Including M&A) in Hong Kong, 2022-2026
  - Corporate and M&A: Foreign Firms in China, 2026
  - Fintech and Financial Services Regulatory in Hong Kong, 2025
- Recognized by *Asian Legal Business*
  - Southeast Asia Law Awards, M&A Deal of the Year – VTAC's Business Combination with 17LIVE Inc, 2024
  - Super 50 TMT (Technology, Media and Telecommunications) Lawyers, 2023

- Recognized by *LexisNexis*
  - 40 UNDER 40 – Asia, 2024
  - 40 UNDER 40 – Greater China, 2024

EDUCATION

- P.C.LL., The University of Hong Kong
- B.Com, University of Melbourne, *(Finance)*
- LL.B., University of Melbourne, *(Honors)*

ADMISSIONS

- Solicitor, Hong Kong
- Supreme Court of New South Wales, (non-practicing)

LANGUAGES

- Chinese (Cantonese)
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- English

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 10 February 2025, January 2025 Accolades

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Author, Practice Note on "Earn-out, Locked Box, and Retention: Private Acquisitions (Hong Kong)," in collaboration with Thomson Reuters, Practical Law Hong Kong, 2022
- Author, Practice Note on "Share purchase agreements in a private mergers and acquisitions (M&A) context," in collaboration with Thomson Reuters, Practical Law Hong Kong, 2020
- Author, Practice Note on "Completion Agenda; share purchases," in collaboration with Thomson Reuters, Practical Law Hong Kong, 2020
- Author, Practice Note on "Completion Agenda; asset purchases", in collaboration with Thomson Reuters, Practical Law Hong Kong, 2020

NEWS & EVENTS

- 6 September 2025, 2025 Hong Kong Law Fair, Hosted by Hong Kong Law Fair Committee
- 14 April 2025, K&L Gates Advises Dash Living on Majority Investment of up to US$150 Million by Hillhouse Investment's Rava Partners
- 23 May 2024, K&L Gates Recognized at ALB Southeast Asia Law Awards 2024 as M&A Deal of the Year Winner
- 5 March 2024, K&L Gates Advises Dash Living on Second Joint Venture With PGIM Real Estate for the Acquisition and Development of The Sheung Wan by Ovolo
- 11 December 2023, K&L Gates Advises BPEA EQT on Klook's US$210 Million Fundraising
- 3 October 2023, K&L Gates Advises Live-Streaming Platform 17LIVE on Landmark De-SPAC Business Combination in Singapore
- 20 September 2023, K&L Gates Advises Supply Chain Management Solutions Provider TradeBeyond in Acquisition of Pivot88
- 5 December 2022, K&L Gates Advises Aigens on Series A Financing Led by Ant Group
- 12 July 2022, K&L Gates Advises on Acquisition of Media Assets of Apple Daily Taiwan
- 13 September 2021, K&L Gates Advises BC Technology Group on Investment in Philippine Digital Asset Exchange
- 4 November 2020, K&L Gates Assists Prenetics in Acquisition of Oxsed RaViD's Rapid Coronavirus Diagnostics Technology
- 22 September 2020, K&L Gates Advises Prenetics on US$15 Million Financing Round
- 3 August 2020, K&L Gates Enhances Funds and M&A Practices with New Partner Trio in Hong Kong

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Mentioned, "Latest Deals from Law Firms and Legal Services Providers: 13th December 2023 (Excerpt)," *CEE Legal Matters*, 13 December 2023
- Mentioned, "K&L Gates Guides First Ever De-Spac Merger on SGX," *Asian Legal Business*, 16 October 2023
- Mentioned, "Latest Deals from Law Firms and Legal Services Providers," *In-House Community*, 14 December 2022
- Mentioned, "K&L Gates helps Aigens raise USD14m in series A funding," *China Business Law Journal*, 9 December 2022
- Mentioned, "Turn Capital's Acquisition of Media Assets of Apple Daily Taiwan," *Global Legal Chronicle*, 13 July 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Private Equity Transactions

INDUSTRIES

- Consumer Goods and Services
- Financial Services
- Life Sciences
- Media and Entertainment
- Private Equity
- Technology

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Prenetics (NASDAQ: PRE)

- Sale of ACT Genomics Holdings Company Limited to Delta Electronics Inc (2308.TW) for approximately US$72 million.
- Tencent's US$30 million investment into Insighta Holdings Limited, a joint venture between Prenetics and the world-renowned Prof. Dennis Lo at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- Issuance of convertible notes in an aggregate principal amount of US$15 million to Apis Insurtech Fund I, a venture fund managed by Apis Partners LLP, existing investor Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund also participated.
- Acquisition of Oxsed RaVid's rapid coronavirus diagnostics technology.

Dash Living

- HK$400 million acquisition of a hotel property at 39 Morrison Hill Road in Wan Chai, Hong Kong.
- Majority investment of up to US$150 million by Rava Partners, the real assets investment arm of Hillhouse Investment, a global investment firm.

17LIVE Holding

- S$1.2 billion de-SPAC transaction with Singapore's Vertex Technology Acquisition Corporation Ltd (VTAC), a technology-focused SPAC (ALB Southeast Asia M&A Deal of the Year, 2024).

- Acquisition of MeMeLive, a live streaming platform controlled by a Beijing-based social gaming developer.
- Series D fundraising led by Vertex Growth Fund, alongside Stonebridge Korea Unicorn Venture Fund, Innoven Capital Singapore, Kaga Electronics Co., Ltd., and ASE Global Group.

Tencent Holdings Limited (HK:0700)

- US$460 million Series B investment in Huya, a gaming live streaming company listed on the NASDAQ.
- US$560 million investment in Yixin Group, an online automotive transaction platform based in the PRC and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.
- US$300 million investment in Bitauto Holdings and US$1 billion follow-on investment in Bitauto Holdings, a leading provider of Internet content and marketing services listed on the NYSE.
- US$200 million investment in Zhuan Zhuan, a second-hand goods online marketplace based in the PRC.
- US$100 million investment in China Literature, an online publishing and e-book website listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

The Carlyle Group

- US$500 million sale of its majority interest in Eastern Broadcasting Co., a Taiwan broadcasting company.
- US$90 million sale of its interests in Yuanta Financial Holdings Ltd., through an accelerated book-build and block trade on the Taiwan Stock Exchange.

Morgan Stanley Private Equity

- Take-private of DSG International Thailand.
- US$100 million investment in Q&K International Group, a Shanghai-based rental apartment operator listed on the NASDAQ.

Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation

- Issue of US$500 million 4.125% bonds due 2019 which were sold internationally, including through a Rule144A offering. The joint lead managers for the issue were the Singapore branch of an investment banking company and J.P. Morgan Securities plc.
- Top-up placing of shares, which involved the placing of existing shares and top-up subscription of new shares by Datang Holdings (Hongkong) Investment Company Limited for a total consideration of HK$1,554 million and an issue of US$95 million zero-coupon convertible bonds due 2018.
- Issue of US$200 million zero-coupon convertible bonds due 2018. The joint managers for the issue were J.P. Morgan Securities plc and the Hong Kong branch of an investment banking company.

Other Notable Experience

- Advised Macquarie Capital on its investment in the US$170 million Series A funding round of Starcloud, a deep-tech startup building solar-powered data centers in space.

- Represented Trax, a Singapore unicorn in the AI and computer vision field backed by Warburg Pincus and Boyu Capital, in connection with its acquisition of a leading Chinese retail AI and big data service platform.
- Represented TradeBeyond, a Hong Kong-based SaaS retail supply chain platform, in its fundraising from EQT and its acquisition of P88.
- Represented Aigens Technologies, a Hong Kong-based SaaS solutions provider in the hospitality industry, in its fundraising from Ant Financial.
- Represented Doki Technologies, a Hong Kong-based start-up specializing in developing technology-enabled wearable devices for children, in connection with various corporate matters.
- Represented EQT, as part of a consortium of investors, in its US$210 million investment in Klook, one of Asia's leading travel and experiences platforms.
- Represented an investment bank in connection with its investment in a PRC-based online education company.
- Represented CDH Investments and DCP Fund in its US$110 million investment by way of convertible bond in Sunpower Group Limited, a manufacturer of energy conservation products in the PRC and listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.
- Represented a private equity company in its investment of approximately HK$1 billion by way of subscription for H shares in Wumart Holdings, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.
- Represented Naspers Limited in its US$9.8 billion sale of its interests in Tencent Holdings Limited by way of an accelerated book-build and block trade on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, which was the largest block trade on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange at the time (FinanceAsia, Best Equity Deal of the Year, 2018).
- Represented China Reinsurance (Group) Corporation (China Re) on the US$2 billion global offering and the listing of its H shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. China International Capital Corporation Hong Kong Securities Limited, UBS Securities Hong Kong Limited, and the Hong Kong branch of a financial institution were the joint sponsors.
- Represented Chinalco Mining Corporation International in relation to the global offering of its shares and listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The global offering raised approximately US$397 million. The joint lead managers in respect of the global offering were Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, China International Capital Corporation, Standard Chartered, a financial institution, and CCB International Capital Limited.
- Represented China International Capital Corporation Hong Kong Securities Limited (CICC), UBS AG, Hong Kong Branch, the Asia branch of an investment banking firm, and other underwriters, on the US$1.9 billion global offering and listing of H and A shares of New China Life Insurance Company Ltd. on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and Shanghai Stock Exchange.
- Represented Standard Chartered PLC, in relation to its issue of US$2 billion fixed rate resetting perpetual contingent convertible securities listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. This was the first equity convertible Tier 1 security to be issued on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

- Represented China Power International in relation to its issue of RMB800 million 3.2% bonds due 2015.