

**Karah Howard**

Partner
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Location

Hong Kong

Biography

Karah specialises in construction law and international arbitration for the infrastructure and energy sectors, and is qualified in Hong Kong, England & Wales and Western Australia. She regularly advises on international disputes based on FIDIC and other bespoke forms for civil works and power projects situated in Hong Kong, Middle East, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia. Karah has acted on arbitrations under HKIAC domestic arbitration rules, SIAC Rules and ICC rules, and seated in Doha, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Turkey.

Although based in Hong Kong since 2013, Karah has spent almost ten years in Japan and speaks, reads and writes Japanese. Her 4 years at an international law firm in Tokyo included an 18 month secondment to the legal department of a large trading house. Since moving to Hong Kong, Karah has strengthened relationships with Japanese clients leveraging her construction skill-set and understanding of culture and language, and continues to advise clients on disputes arising on their international projects.

Experience

Advised/acted as counsel for:

- Respondent Japanese civil works contractor in defence of claims of US\$120 million and counterclaims valued at US\$17 million, in ICC arbitration commenced by a civil works subcontractor on a transport infrastructure project in Middle East.
- Claimant Japanese subcontractor on claims against main contractor in ICC arbitration on civil works project in Middle East.
- Claimant Japanese EPC contractor on claims valuing US\$55 million against JV partner to prepare Statement of Claim in ICC arbitration on a coal fired power plant project in SE Asia.
- Respondent Korean contractor defence of claims valuing US\$29 million and counterclaims of US\$68 million in ICC arbitration against sub-contractor on a civil and building works project in Thailand.
- Claimant Japanese M&E contractor on claims of HK\$250 million against employer on Hong Kong major civil works project.
- Claimant sub-subcontractor on final account claims against subcontractor on a Hong Kong civil works project.
- Respondent JV Consultancy in respect of contra-charge claims raised by Employer on major Hong Kong civil works project.
- Claimant Chinese SOE contractor in Hong Kong domestic arbitration against employer on a civil works project in Hong Kong.
- Japanese contractor with respect to its investigation into labour records on large Hong Kong civil works project.
- Respondent Japanese contractor on subcontractor claims in litigation and arbitration on a Hong Kong tunnelling project.
- Claimant Japanese contractor preparing claims of HK\$780 million for arbitration on a Hong Kong shaft and tunnelling project.
- Claimant Japanese EPC contractor on claims against JV partner in ICC arbitration on Eastern-European railway project.
- Respondent Japanese contractor in ICC arbitration on a desalination plant in North Africa.

Areas of Expertise

- Construction & Infrastructure
- Power
- Arbitration

Education

- 2006, University of Western Australia, LLB and Bachelor of Arts (Japanese)

Qualification year and jurisdiction

- 2018, Solicitor of High Court of Hong Kong
- 2010, Senior Courts of England and Wales
- 2008, Supreme Court of Western Australia

Career History

- May 2013 to present – Pinsent Masons LLP
- 2009-2013 – Herbert Smith Freehills, Tokyo
- 2007-2009 – Minter Ellison, Perth

Languages

- English – Native
- Japanese – Fluent – written and spoken (Japanese Business Law Exam Level 3 (for Japanese nationals) ビジネス実務法務検定試験 3 級)
- French – Professional (C1 of CECRL Exam)

Professional Memberships

- Hong Kong Bar Association
- HKArb Associate Member
- CIArb Member
- Women in Law HK Committee Member
- Lighthouse Women in Construction Member