

Biography



Paul Sephton

Partner | Banking & Corporate | Hong Kong

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Expertise

Banking & Finance , Corporate , Restructuring , Private Equity , Environmental, Social & Governance , Family Office

Paul Sephton is the global head of our Banking & Finance and Corporate groups, and the managing partner of our Hong Kong office. He specialises in debt finance and routinely advises leading onshore law firms, major international financial institutions and listed and private companies on a range of financial products. This includes leveraged finance, margin lending, acquisition finance, pre-IPO finance, take-private transactions, bond issuances, convertible instruments, derivative transactions, property finance and syndicated lending.

Before joining Harneys, Paul was part of the finance team at Walkers' Hong Kong office. He also previously held positions at Allen & Overy in London and Linklaters in Hong Kong. During his tenure, Paul completed secondments with Barclays' legal team in London and with Standard Chartered's leveraged finance team in Hong Kong.

Recommendations

Paul is ranked as a "leading partner". Clients say he is "energetic, responsive and gives sophisticated advice".

- Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2025

Paul is recognised for his corporate and finance expertise in the Asia-Pacific rankings.

- Chambers and Partners, 2019 and 2022 - 2025

Paul is recognised in the Asian Legal Business Offshore Client Choice list.

- Asian Legal Business, 2025

Paul is ranked as a "leading individual" in the "Offshore Law Firms - Hong Kong" rankings. He is described as "commercial, user-friendly and hardworking".

- Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2024

Paul's involvement in the 51job take-private financing has been awarded "Deal of the Year".

- IFLR Asia Pacific Awards, 2023

Paul is ranked as a "leading individual" and is described as "very experienced".

- Legal 500, 2021-2023

Paul is ranked as "highly regarded".

- IFLR1000, 2022-2024

Paul is ranked a "leading individual". He is "technically strong and responsive" and is noted, in particular, for his "ability to handle complicated matters" in the finance space, including as it relates to leveraged finance, margin lending, take-private transactions, bond issuances, derivative transactions, and syndicated lending.

- Legal 500, 2020

Experience

Acting as BVI counsel to Studio City Company for its US\$350 million senior secured notes offering

Advising Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Shanghai Branch on BVI and Cayman Islands law in relation to secured term loan facilities up to an aggregate amount of US\$3.8 billion for the acquisition and privatisation of a NYSE listed company, 58.com. This transaction won the Finance Deal of the Year 2021 at the Asian Legal Business Hong Kong Law Awards.

Acting as BVI and Cayman counsel to Deutsche Bank AG on the facility, purpose of which is to refinance an existing facility and for on-lending an intercompany loan for general corporate purposes. The security package includes both onshore and offshore security documents, whereby certain constitutional documents of the BVI security provider has to be notarised and legalised (on which Harneys also assists) before the underlying onshore security interests become valid under the PRC laws upon registration. (August 2021)

Acting as BVI and Cayman counsel to the CS team on the facility, purpose of which is to refinance an existing facility sharing an identical deal structure. To guarantee the liabilities of the Borrower under the Facility Agreement, corporate guarantee was granted by the Cayman parent of the Borrower and also 24 of the Borrower's BVI subsidiaries. The security package also involves accession to an intercreditor agreement with an existing pool of shared securities (including share mortgages in respect of the BVI subsidiary guarantors), and a BVI minority borrower share mortgage. (July 2021)

Acting as BVI and Cayman counsel to the Taipei Fubon team on the multi-tranche facility, purpose of which is to (i) finance consideration for the acquisition of a Hong Kong property-holding company and to (ii) refinance existing Fubon facilities. The common security package includes share charges in respect of the 2 BVI borrowers, one of which is entered into by a Cayman LP (through its general partner) and an assignment and subordination deed of all the shareholder and intra-group loans advanced to the 2 BVI borrowers and the BVI guarantor. (July 2021)

Advising Deutsche Bank in relation to the financing of Key Safety Systems' US\$1.6 billion acquisition of Takata Corporation, a Japanese air-bag maker

Advising US private equity firm, Warburg Pincus, in relation to their investment, via a tranche of US dollar financing, in the Chinese payment giant Ant Financial

Advising on Studio City Company Limited's Rule 144A/Regulation S international offering of senior secured notes due 2019 and senior secured notes due 2021, and its super senior revolving credit facility. The deal was named High Yield Deal of The Year at the IFLR Asia Awards in 2017

Advising Deutsche Bank on its financing to Intime International Holdings Limited in relation to the joint acquisition (by way of Cayman scheme of arrangement) with Alibaba for Intime Retail (Group) Company Limited

Advising Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited on the US\$1 billion financing to Melco Investment Resources Limited in relation to the purchase of certain shares in Melco Crown Entertainment Limited

Advising the joint lead managers on Yuzhou Properties' series of High Yield Bond Offerings

Advising CTBC Bank Co., Ltd. on its loan facility to Bain Capital Rise Education Limited

Advising Morgan Stanley on its loan facility to Bain Capital VXI Cayman Ltd

Advising Yuzhou on its US\$300million issuance of 7.85 per cent green notes and concurrent tender offer

Bar Admissions

British Virgin Islands
2016

England and Wales
2006

Education

Nottingham Law School
2004

University of Leicester (LLB)
2003

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Legal 500