



## Owen Chio

### Partner / Senior Legal Consultant

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## OVERVIEW

Owen Chio is a partner and senior legal consultant in the firm's Taipei office. Owen has over 20 years of experience advising on (i) cross-border M&As and investments in energy, high tech, biotech and other sectors, (ii) major energy projects particularly in wind, solar, thermal power and natural gas areas, (iii) corporate compliance issues such as data privacy, trade sanctions, and anti-corruption, and (iv) cross-border commercial disputes. Owen has been involved in some of the most significant deals for major MNCs and state-owned enterprises and acts for corporate clients on a long term basis in their investments, M&As and post-acquisition/investment corporate and commercial matters. Owen is recognized by International Financial Law Review (IFLR) as a "Leading Lawyer - Highly Regarded."

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Owen was a partner and executive consultant and the global co-head of the compliance practice of a Taiwan law firm with strategic alliance with one of the Big 4 firms. Before then, he worked at the Taipei office of a multinational law firm for 15 years, including as a partner and senior consultant, co-chair of corporate compliance practice, deputy chair of foreign investment approval, and CSR partner of the firm. Owen worked in the Hong Kong office of a UK Magic Circle firm before returning to Taiwan.

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speech on "Global Trend on Directors' Duties" to Continental Engineering Co., Ltd. and Taiwan High Speed Rail Corporation, 22 November 2022
- Lecture on "Cross-Border M&As and JVs" to CPC Corporation, Taiwan on 26 November 2021 and to business school students of DanJiang University, 8 June 2018
- Speech on "VC Investments in Startups" to members of the TaiFu Startup Association, 31 May 2018
- Speech on "GDPR" to members of Taiwan CIO Association, 28 June 2018

## ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

### ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

- DUB, The Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn, 1997
- Advanced Certificate in International Arbitration, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 2018

### EDUCATION

- M.B.A., National Taiwan University, 2014
- PGD, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, 2010
- LL.M., King's College, University of London, 1998
- LL.B., University of Manchester, 1996
- B.A., Simon Fraser University, 1993
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#### • ADMISSIONS

- Arbitrator of the Chinese Arbitration Association, Taiwan
- Bar of New York
- Barrister, England and Wales (non-practising)
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

#### • LANGUAGES

- Chinese (Mandarin)
- English

#### • THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 27 March 2020, 'Fitness for Purpose' and Conflicting Obligations in Offshore Wind Projects

#### • OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-writer of "Laws and Regulations Shaping Offshore Wind Development in Taiwan" published on Euroview, 8 November 2021
- Chief writer of "Doing Business in Taiwan" published by CCH, 2012 and 2013.

## • AREAS OF FOCUS

- Oil and Gas
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Data Protection, Privacy, and Security
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- International Arbitration
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Power
- Renewables

## • INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Health Care Sector
- Pharmaceuticals, Biologics, and Medical Devices
- Technology

## • REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

### Major Energy Projects and Related M&As

- Acted for a state-owned energy company based in Taiwan, in relation to (i) its equity investment in an LNG plant in Qatar, (ii) its equity investment in a LNG Project in Middle East, (iii) its investment in a joint venture in lubricant oil manufacturing, terminal, storage and distribution in Vietnam, (iv) its investment in an oil mine in Columbia (which did not proceed), (v) its purchase of natural gas, (vi) its set up of a joint venture to own and purchase LNG tankers (NiMic), (vii) its financing and refinancing of a highly-sophisticated gas carrier (NiMic), and (viii) its construction of a natural gas receiving terminal and under water pipe lines in Taichung Port (the second LNG Port in Taiwan).
- Acted for a leading solar developer/EPC service provider in Taiwan in connection with negotiating an EPC contract with an operator of solar energy projects for a 123.5 MW solar project (dual-use with fishery).
- Acted for a leading solar developer/EPC service provider in Taiwan in connection with the sale of Maxinsolar Co., Ltd. that has around 6 solar power plants in Taiwan of a total of around 106 MW, to a developer owned by an investment management company.

- Acted for a leading solar developer/EPC service provider in Taiwan in connection with the provision of engineering, procurement and construction services, operations and maintenance services, and asset management services, to 28 solar power plants in Taiwan owned by an investment management company.
- Acted for an investment management company in Australia in relation to the sale of the equity interests in Taiwan's first offshore wind farm to Danish multinational power company and an Australian global financial services group.
- Acted for an investment management company in Australia, in connection with (i) a sale of majority shares of an international investment firm that operates an offshore wind project and has joint developments with an Australian global financial services group, (ii) its provision of operations and maintenance services and asset management services to an offshore wind farm project, and (iii) other corporate and commercial matters related to the project.
- Acted for J&V Energy Technology in connection with the sale of He Lin Co., Ltd. that has around 8 solar power plants in Taiwan of a total of around 8.5 MW, to a developer owned by a major global equity fund.
- Acted for Soleq Taiwan Renewables Ltd. in connection with its project finance from Fubon Commercial Bank Co., Ltd. for a 8.2 MW ground-mounted solar power project in Changhua, Taiwan.
- Acted for Northville Limited in relation to its several rounds of investments in Wave Power Renewables Limited.
- Acted for a leading global dredging and offshore contractor and maritime services provider in connection with its provision of underwater foundation constructions and installations to offshore wind developers in Taiwan.
- Acted for K2 Management in connection with its renewable energy consultancy business and operations.
- Engaged by a global wind turbine manufacturer and onshore and offshore wind service provider to provide general corporate and regulatory compliance legal services.
- Acted for Chung-Hsin Electric & Machinery Manufacturing Corporation in relation to its joint venture with Vodaphone India for the supply of methanol-based fuel cells power supply systems to support many cellular facilities in India.
- Acted for a private equity to invest in Xiaopeng Motors, a major manufacturer of electric-vehicles in China.
- Acted for AA Wind Energy in connection with its fund raisings.

## **M&As and Transactions in High Tech and Bio Tech**

- Acted for FarEastTone's subsidiaries in (i) their investment in TBCASoft Inc for the development of the telecoms block chain technology and (ii) their investment in Hustle Fund II.
- Acted for Apple to acquire a plant from Qualcomm.
- Acted for Commscope Technologies in relation to the Taiwan aspects of its acquisition of the networks business of Tyco Electronics.

- Acted for a US-based industrial machinery manufacturing MNC in relation to the Taiwan aspects of the spin-off/separation of its automotive experience business.
- Acted for a Korea-based appliance and consumer electronics MNC in relation to its investment in and joint venture with a semiconductor manufacturing company.
- Acted for Prime View International Co., Ltd. in relation to its acquisition of E Ink Corporation through reverse cash-out merger.
- Acted for Yahoo Taiwan Inc. in relation to its acquisition of Wretch Co., Ltd.
- Acted for an AI and cloud service provider in the artificial intelligence area in relation to its fund raisings, IPO, corporate, commercial, and employment matters.
- Acted for a British semiconductor company in relation to its acquisition of the Taiwan semiconductor company and its corporate and commercial matters.
- Acted for Vatics Inc in relation to the sale thereof.
- Acted for Abbott in relation to the Taiwan aspects of the global spin-off of its pharmaceutical business to AbbVie.
- Acted for Baxter International in relation to the Taiwan aspects of the global spin-off of its pharmaceutical business to Baxalta.
- Acted for JHL in relation to its cross-border cell line licenses.
- Acted for Mycenax Biotech in relation to patent surveys and advice.
- Acted for Pharmadax Inc in relation to its joint ventures in the PRC.
- Acted for Fidelity Regulation Therapeutics in relation to licensing some bio-pharma technologies from Oxford University.

### **M&As and Transactions in Other Industries**

- Acted for Power Partners Private Limited in relation to its investments in International Data Centre projects and related contracts.
- Acted for Shan-Loong Transportation Co., Ltd. (Taiwan-listed) in its M&As, restructuring and corporate compliance matters.
- Acted for De Yu to acquire McDonald's Taiwan.
- Acted for Ruen Chen Investment Holding Co., Ltd. in connection with the acquisition of Nan Shan Life Insurance Co., Ltd. (AIG's Taiwan subsidiary).
- Acted for Eastern Shop Direct Co., Ltd. and Chung Tai Co., Ltd. in connection with their sale of 91% shares in Eastern Home Shopping Co., Ltd. to a major foreign private equity company.

- Acted for certain Eastern Group companies and Mr. Gary Wang in relation to their sale of shares in Eastern Multimedia Company Limited, Eastern Broadcasting Company and Eastern Home Shopping Company.
- Acted for Yuen Foong Yu Mfg. Co., Ltd. in relation to its acquisition of the assets of Procter & Gamble's "Tender" and "Delight" household paper products.
- Acted for FNAC S.A. in its joint venture with a Taiwan department store and the subsequent sale of the joint venture shares.
- Acted for OUE in relation to its major real estate acquisition in Taipei.
- Acted for an aerospace company in its joint venture with a US-based engineering and technology MNC.
- Acted for vanBaerle as the general corporate and commercial counsel in connection with its investment in Taiwan and Singapore, and the sale of shares of the foregoing.
- Acted for Hill's Pet Nutrition, a subsidiary of Hill's-Colgate, as the general corporate and commercial counsel in connection its investment and distribution in Taiwan.
- Acted for a global professional services company in connection with its Taiwan business.
- Acted for Taiwan Futures Exchange Corporation in connection with its licensing of indices from FTSE International Limited.

## Compliance

- Assisted EMQ to become GDPR ready.
- Advised a global top three software company on GDPR compliance.
- Advised an industry-leading IC design company on GDPR compliance.
- Advised Fortemedia on GDPR compliance.
- Advised Silicon Motion on GDPR compliance.
- Acted for a Taiwan-listed, technology-driven IP surveillance solutions provider in relation to an investigation by the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control for potential violations of US economic sanctions against Cuba, Iran, Syria, and Sudan.

## Dispute Resolutions

- Acted for Powertech Industrial Co., Ltd. in its equity investment and product development/supply cross border disputes with Zernet Limited (a Hong Kong company), CircleBright Limited (a BVI company), TrickleStar Limited (a Hong Kong company) and TrickleStar Pte. Ltd. (a Singapore company).
- Acted for Allen Wu in his disputes with HOPU Group in relation to their respective equity interests in Arm Technology (China) Co., Ltd.
- Acted for a major subcontractor in a major dispute with the main contractor of a combined cycle power plant in Taiwan before Hong Kong International Arbitration Court.

- Acted for a MNC in connection with their international commercial arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules before Hong Kong International Arbitration Court with a major Japanese turnkey contractor ULVAC of solar power plants involving claims of over US\$50 million.
- Acted for Kuo Kuang Power Plant in its dispute with Zurich Property Insurance.
- Acted for Pertech in defending a US patent litigation commenced by Minebea.
- Acted for Quanta Storage in a litigation against a bank in South Korea.
- Acted for Softstar in a litigation in Singapore against Gravity of South Korea.
- Acted for Centapharm in connection with its multi-jurisdictional dispute and litigation/arbitration with Teva
- Acted for Yuan Sheng Group against certain fraudsters in multiple litigations in England and Taiwan.
- Acted for Winmate Inc in defending a US patent litigation commenced by Altair Logix.
- Acted for Taiwan High Speed Rail Corporation in its dispute and arbitration with Eurotrain following the former's switch to Shinkansen for the construction of the Taiwan High Speed Rail.