



*The University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and
The Asian Studies Center (ASC)
are proud to co-sponsor*

Deals and Disputes: China, Hong Kong, and Commercial Law

May 18-20, 2021

[Register Here](#)

Join us for virtual sessions over three days in May that will consider the structure, reach, and impact of China's Belt & Road Initiative and its implications for commercial relations, dispute resolution, and the future of legal developments in Asia more generally.

Pennsylvania CLE Credit

This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for seven (7) hours of substantive credit. There is a \$105 fee for processing CLE credit for this event.



Tuesday, May 18, 2021

8-8:10 a.m. (EDT) Welcome and Introduction

Ariel Armony, Vice Provost for Global Affairs, Director,
University Center for International Studies

Amy Wildermuth, Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

James Cook, Associate Director, Asian Studies Center

Ronald A. Brand, Director, Center for International Legal Education

**8:10-9:15 a.m. (EDT) Keynote #1: The Supreme People's Court
and the Development of Chinese
International Commercial Law**

Susan Finder,

Peking University School of Transnational Law

**9:25-9:40 a.m. (EDT) The Conference Context:
China's Belt & Road Initiative**

Matthew Johnson, *AltaSilva*, LLC

**9:40-11:10 a.m. (EDT) Panel 1: Commercial Law Dispute
Resolution in US-China
Business Relationships**

This panel will discuss the current status of commercial law dispute resolution in litigation and arbitration in US-China business relationships. The panel will use the facts and the decision of the California Supreme Court in the case of *Rockefeller Technology Investments (Asia) VII v. Changzhou SinoType Technology Co., Ltd.*, 9 Cal.5th 125, 460 P.3d 764 (2020), as a foundation for discussion of drafting forum selection clauses for US-China business contracts; a comparison of arbitration and litigation in US-China business contracts; possibilities for judicial cooperation between the US and Chinese courts; the recognition of judgments and arbitral awards in US-China business relationships; and related issues affected by the Belt & Road Initiative.

Moderator

Katerina Osseonva, US Department of Justice Office of Foreign Litigation

Panelists

Jie (Jeanne) HUANG, University of Sydney Law School

Wenliang ZHANG, Renmin University School of Law

Peter Trooboff, Covington & Burling, Washington, DC

Ronald Brand, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

**8-9:30 a.m. (EDT) Panel 2: Hong Kong, Beijing,
and Asian Competition for
Dispute Resolution Services**

This panel will view the Belt & Road Initiative from the perspective of entrepreneurial opportunities to create new courts and arbitral institutions for the settlement of international commercial disputes. This will include the rise of international commercial courts after the 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements, the shifting reliance on Hong Kong as a dispute resolution center given recent developments in the Special Administrative Region, and related issues.

Moderator

Moderator, Ronald Brand, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Panelists

Tiong Min YEO, Singapore Management University School of Law

Julien Chaisse, City University of Hong Kong School of Law

Xu QIAN, Zhejiang University

Shahla Ali, University of Hong Kong Department of Law

**9:40-11 a.m. (EDT) Keynote #2: Lawfare & the Shrinking
Space for Civil Society**

*Antony Dapiran, author of
City on Fire: The Fight for Hong Kong*

Thursday, May 20, 2021

8-9:30 a.m. (EDT) Panel 3: The Future of Hong Kong

This panel will analyze the political and legal challenges facing Hong Kong in the aftermath of implementing the National Security Law in June 2020. It will review the law's political and legal changes and their effects on the court system, human rights, and the legal profession.

Moderator

James Cook, Asian Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh

Panelists

*Michael Davis, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
and Jindal Global University*

Eva Pils, Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College, London

Pierre Landry, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

9:30-9:45 a.m. Wrap-up

Speaker Bios



Susan Finder is a scholar of China's judicial system (in comparative perspective). Her research concentrates on the Supreme People's Court and Chinese judicial reforms, which is published on her blog, the Supreme People's Court Monitor. This is Finder's second career in academia. She comes to the School of Transnational Law at Peking University after 20 years in China-related practice at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (and other firms), in legal publishing, and as a securities regulator. In her first academic career (at what is now the City University of Hong Kong), she published the first comprehensive study of the Supreme People's Court (SPC). Professor Finder received her undergraduate degree from Yale College, her Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School, and a Master of Laws degree from Columbia Law School.



Matthew D. Johnson is founder and principal of AltaSilva, LLC, where he provides China-focused advisory, due diligence, and risk mitigation services across a range of private and public sectors. As an academic he taught the history, politics, and foreign relations of modern China at the University of Oxford, and was dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Taylor's University, Malaysia. He was a Fulbright scholar and board member of the Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange, and is a member of the National Committee on United States-China Relations and is a Center Associate of the University of Pittsburgh Asian Studies Center.



Katerina V. Ossanova is a Trial Attorney and manages the Office of International Judicial Assistance (OIIA) within the Office of Foreign Litigation at the U.S. Department of Justice. OIIA is the US Central Authority for the Hague Service Convention, the Hague Evidence Convention, the Inter-American Convention on Letters Rogatory, and letters rogatory received through diplomatic channels. Ossanova provides guidance and training to US Government attorneys on how to serve process or obtain evidence abroad for use in U.S. litigation. Previously, she was an Attorney-Advisor International with the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP) in the Office of the General Counsel of the US Department of Commerce. In 2008, Ossanova received her JD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and graduated with an International and Comparative Law Certificate. She earned a BA in International Relations and History from the University of Virginia in 2003.



Jie (Jeanne) Huang is an associate professor at the University of Sydney Law School. She teaches and researches in private international law, e-commerce law, international investment law, international litigation and arbitration, and underwater cultural heritage protection. She has published four books and authored more than forty articles in law journals, such as *Journal of Private International Law* and *Journal of International Economic Law*. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She also serves as an Arbitrator at the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center, Shanghai International Arbitration Center, and Xi'an Arbitration Commission.

Speaker Bios



Wenliang ZHANG is an assistant professor at Renmin University School of Law in Beijing, China, where he teaches courses on Private International Law and commercial arbitration. Zhang holds a PhD in Private International Law from Wuhan University, as well as a PhD in Law from Ghent University. He was previously a postdoctoral researcher at Peking University, where he conducted research in private international law, commercial arbitration, and international disputes.



Peter Trooboff is Senior Counsel in the Washington, DC, office of Covington & Burling LLP, with nearly half a century of experience as an international lawyer. He has practiced in the field of international trade and investment and has advised, written, and lectured internationally on issues relating to transnational litigation. He has helped draft important US legislation on international legal issues and been a member of US delegations to important treaty negotiations. He has served as a member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law, as President of the American Society of International Law, and as a member of the Editorial Board of the American Journal of International Law. Trooboff has assisted governments and private multinational clients with regulatory, compliance, investigation, and enforcement issues arising under US foreign trade controls, including those administered by the Commerce, Treasury, State, and Energy Departments. He has served as both arbitrator and party counsel in important international investment arbitrations.



Ronald A. Brand is the Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg University Professor of Law, John E. Murray Faculty Scholar, and Director of the Center for International Legal Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He regularly teaches courses in international business transactions, international arbitration and litigation, and matters of private international law. In 2011, Brand delivered a special course on private international law at the Hague Academy of International Law. He is a former Fulbright Scholar in Belgium, a former Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna, a recipient of the ABA Section on International Laws Leonard A. Theberge Award in Private International Law, the University of Pittsburgh Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement, and a recipient of a Dr. Jur. honoris causa from the University of Augsburg. Brand was a member of the US Delegation to the Special Commissions and Diplomatic Conferences of The Hague Conference on Private International Law that concluded both the 2005 Convention on Choice of Court Agreements and the 2019 Hague Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters. He has helped train students for the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition from more than 30 countries.

Speaker Bios



Tiong Min Yeo is the Yong Pung How Professor of Law and former Dean of the Singapore Management University School of Law. Yeo specializes in Asian comparative legal studies, conflict of laws, contracts, equity and restitution and has published articles in many of these areas. He has previously served as an Associate Professor for the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law. Yeo holds a Bachelor of Civil Law and PhD from the University of Oxford and earned his LLB from the National University of Singapore.



Julien Chaisse is a Professor at the City University of Hong Kong, School of Law. He is Editor-in-Chief of the *Asia Pacific Law Review*, and the recent recipient of the 10th Smith-Lowenfeld Prize from the International Arbitration Club of New York. His scholarship includes a dozen books and over 60 articles and book chapters. He is a Joint Editor-in-Chief of the *Asia Pacific Law Review*. He frequently serves as an arbitrator and expert witness and has also assisted numerous jurisdictions in drafting legislation. He is President and Chair of the Asia Pacific FDI Network (APFN), an organization that focuses on researching foreign direct investment and facilitating cooperation among over 100 scholars and 50 institutions. Prior to joining CityU Law School, he taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law (2009-2019) where he served as Director of the Faculty's Research Centre as well as Director of PhD & MPhil Program. He earlier worked as deputy head of the team analysing the rules for multilateral trade and investment agreements at the World Trade Institute in Switzerland, as a lecturer at Sciences Po Aix in France, and as a diplomat for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in New Delhi.



Xu QIAN is Associate Professor & “Hundred Talents Program Fellow” at Guanghua Law School, Zhejiang University, and a Research Associate at the Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL), with a research focus on alternative dispute resolution and economic, social & cultural rights. Her publications include the research monograph “Water Services Disputes in International Arbitration,” in the International Arbitration Law Library series, as well as articles in the *American Journal of International Law (Unbound)*, the *Asia Pacific Law Review*, and the *Asian Journal of WTO & International Health Law and Policy*. She was a scholar-in-residence at The Hague Academy of International Law in 2019. She is an active member of the Asia Pacific FDI Network and the Academic Forum on Investor-state Dispute Settlement.

Speaker Bios



Shahla Ali is Professor of Law and Associate Dean (International) at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law and Director of the LLM Program in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution. Her work centers on questions of governance, development and cross-border dispute resolution in the Asia Pacific region. Ali has been engaged in dispute resolution reform at the regional and global levels including with USAID, IFC/World Bank and the United Nations on issues pertaining to access to justice, peace process negotiation training, financial dispute resolution and land use conflict resolution. Her recent books including *Court Mediation Reform* (Elgar, 2018), *Governing Disasters* (Cambridge, 2016), *Consumer Financial Dispute Resolution in a Comparative Context* (Cambridge, 2013) and *Resolving Disputes in the Asia Pacific* (Routledge, 2010), have informed legal developments in the Asia Pacific and contributed to the emergence of a growing body of work examining comparative dispute resolution systems from an interdisciplinary perspective.



Antony Dapiran is a Hong Kong-based writer, lawyer and photographer. He is the author of two books on Hong Kong including his most recent, *City on Fire: The Fight for Hong Kong* (Scribe, 2020). His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Quartz* and *Foreign Policy*, among others, and he is a regular commentator on television and radio including BBC, CNN, CNBC and beyond. Daipiran is qualified as a lawyer in Hong Kong, England, and Australia. Over a twenty-year legal career, he advised many of China's leading companies raising capital and doing business internationally on transactions that were transformational for China's business and economic landscape. A fluent Mandarin speaker, he has resided between Hong Kong and Beijing for over twenty years.



James Cook is the Associate Director of the Asian Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh where he oversees a Department of Education National Resource Center in East Asia. His research focuses on modern Chinese history and the Chinese diaspora in the early 20th century. Before arriving at Pitt, he spent 13 years as a faculty member at Central Washington University in Washington State, where he was Director of the Asian Studies Program.

Speaker Bios



Eva Pils is Professor of Law at King's College London, an affiliated scholar at the US-Asia Law Institute of New York University Law School, and a member of the Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg. She studied law, philosophy, and sinology in Heidelberg, London and Beijing and holds a PhD in law from University College London. Her current research addresses autocratic conceptions and practices of governance, legal and political resistance, and forms of complicity with autocratic wrongs. Before joining

King's in 2014, Eva was an associate professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law. She is a member of the Academic Freedom and Internationalisation Working Group and a legal action committee member of the Global Legal Action Network.



Pierre Landry is a Professor in the department of Government and Public Administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Landry's expertise is in local governance, urbanization and development, authoritarian regimes, East Asia and China. He has also been working on research projects in Vietnam as well as in Tunisia, Malawi, Zambia and Kenya, in collaboration with the Program on Governance and Local Development at the University of Gothenburg. He received his PhD in Political Science at the University of

Michigan and is also an alumnus of the University of Virginia (MA in Foreign Affairs) and the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University program at the Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing.



Michael C. Davis is a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC, an affiliate research scholar at the US Asia Law Institute at New York University, and a professor of law and international affairs at O.P. Jindal Global University in India. Long a public intellectual in Hong Kong, he was a professor in the Law Faculty at the University of Hong Kong until late 2016. His scholarship engages a range of issues relating to human rights, the rule of law, and constitutionalism

in emerging states, with frequent publication in such public affairs journals as *Foreign Affairs* and the *Journal of Democracy*, as well as academic journals. Amnesty International, the Hong Kong Journalists Association, and the Hong Kong FCC awarded him a 2014 Human Rights Press Award for his commentary on the 2014 Hong Kong "umbrella movement" in the *South China Morning Post*. His latest book on *Making Hong Kong China: The Rollback of Human Rights and the Rule of Law* (November 2020) is available from Columbia University Press [here](#).