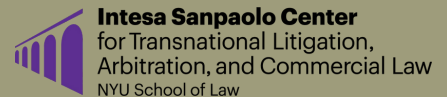


# Challenging Fundamental Notions of International Arbitration

*CUHK Faculty of Law - NYU School of Law Seminar*



## **TIME:**

15 September 2025

(Monday)

9:00a.m - 1:00p.m



## **VENUE:**

The Warren Chan Moot Court  
CUHK Graduate Law Centre  
2/F, Bank of America Tower  
12 Harcourt Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Scan to register:



# AGENDA

**9:00 Registration**

**9:30-9.35 Opening Remarks**

- **Prof. Chao XI**  
Dean of the Faculty of Law,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- **Prof. Franco FERRARI**  
Clarence D. Ashley Professor of Law,  
Director, Intesa Sanpaolo Center for Transnational Litigation,  
Arbitration, and Commercial Law  
NYU School of Law

**9:35-10:20 Panel 1: Limits to Party Autonomy**

- **Moderator Prof. Yueming YAN**  
Assistant Professor & Assistant Dean (External Engagement)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law
- **Speaker Prof. Franco FERRARI**  
Clarence D. Ashley Professor of Law,  
Director, Intesa Sanpaolo Center for Transnational Litigation,  
Arbitration, and Commercial Law  
NYU School of Law
- **Commentator Ms. Olga BOLTENKO**  
Barrister, Prince's Chambers Hong Kong  
Barrister & Arbitrator, Boltenko Arbiters  
Arbitrator, Maxwell Chambers Singapore
- **Commentator Mr. Xiongfeng LI**  
Secretary General, South China International Arbitration Center  
(HK) (SCIAHK)  
Deputy Director of International Cooperation, Shenzhen Court  
of International Arbitration (SCIA)

**10:20-11:05 Panel 2: Contextual Interpretation of Due Process**

- **Moderator Mr. Jacky FUNG**  
Senior Associate, Freshfields
- **Speaker Prof. Chen YU**  
Assistant Professor, City University of Hong Kong, School of Law

- **Commentator** **Mr. Domenico DI PIETRO**  
Independent Arbitrator, Di Pietro Arbitration
- **Commentator** **Prof. Christopher TO**  
Programme Director of the LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at City University of Hong Kong and Barrister

## **11:05-11:25 Break**

## **11:25-12:10 Panel 3: Soft Law**

- **Moderator** **Mr. Xiongfeng LI**  
Secretary General, South China International Arbitration Center (HK) (SCIAHK)  
Deputy Director of International Cooperation, Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA)
- **Speaker** **Prof. Yueming YAN**  
Assistant Professor & Assistant Dean (External Engagement)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law
- **Commentator** **Mr. Andrew CHIN**  
Partner, Gallant
- **Commentator** **Prof. Mark FELDMAN**  
Interim Dean & Professor of Law,  
Peking University School of Transnational Law

## **12:10-12:55 Panel 4: New York Conventions' Uniform Regime**

- **Moderator** **Prof. Chen YU**  
Assistant Professor, City University of Hong Kong, School of Law
- **Speaker** **Mr. Domenico DI PIETRO**  
Independent Arbitrator, Di Pietro Arbitration
- **Commentator** **Mr. Jacky FUNG**  
Senior Associate, Freshfields
- **Commentator** **Prof. Yun ZHAO**  
Henry Cheng Professor in International Law & Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

## **12:55-13:00 Closing Remarks**

- **Prof. Yueming YAN**  
Assistant Professor & Assistant Dean (External Engagement)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law

## SPEAKERS & COMMENTATORS (ALPHABETIC ORDER)



### **Ms. Olga BOLTENKO**

Barrister, Prince's Chambers Hong Kong  
Barrister & Arbitrator, Boltenko Arbiters  
Arbitrator, Maxwell Chambers Singapore

Ms. Olga Boltenko FCIArb is a barrister and arbitrator with over a decade of experience in cross-border dispute resolution and international arbitration. With a particular focus on public international law, investor-State dispute resolution, and commercial arbitration, Ms. Boltenko has acted as legal counsel in investor-State disputes under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the ICSID, the SCC, the ICC, the LCIA, and in various capacities in dozens of commercial disputes in a wide array of industries including oil and gas, mining, infrastructure, construction, telecommunications and pharmaceuticals, across Asia and beyond. Ms Boltenko carries an active arbitrator practice as she is listed on multiple regional and international arbitrator panels.



### **Mr. Andrew CHIN**

Partner, Gallant

Andrew is a Hong Kong Solicitor (with solicitor-advocate rights of audience in the higher courts) and is also admitted as a solicitor in both England and Wales and Singapore. He handles commercial, construction, corporate and shareholder disputes on behalf of major companies and financial institutions. Andrew frequently acts as counsel in the international commercial arbitration and also sits as an arbitrator.

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators. He is on the list of arbitrators for the HKIAC, the SHIAC, SCIA and BVI Arbitration Centre, amongst others. The 2025 edition of Benchmark Litigation notes client feedback that Andrew is "[a] very experienced practitioner with deep legal expertise and excellent knowledge of Hong Kong and China. Very easy to work with, a great strategist with a clear vision for each matter he takes on. A truly outstanding advocate."



## **Mr. Domenico DI PIETRO**

Independent Arbitrator, Di Pietro Arbitration

Domenico Di Pietro is an Italian national qualified to practice in Italy, England & Wales, and registered as Foreign Legal Consultant with the Florida Bar in the United States.

He is an independent arbitrator and consultant working out of the Miami and London offices of his firm Di Pietro Arbitration P.A. Previously he worked as counsel in international law firms in Italy, England, the U.S.A. and Japan. He assisted various Chinese companies in international disputes in China, Hong Kong, Italy, and Switzerland. His expertise includes commercial arbitration and investment arbitration.

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Freeman of the City of London and the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators. He is on the Panel of Arbitrators of institutions in Europe and Asia. He taught international arbitration in Italy and was twice a Scholar in Residence at New York University School of Law.

He has published widely on his area of expertise. Some of his works have been cited by the leading courts in many countries.

He has been featured in Who's Who Legal for over 15 years.



## **Prof. Mark FELDMAN**

Interim Dean & Professor of Law, Peking University School of Transnational Law

Mark Feldman is Interim Dean and Professor of Law at Peking University School of Transnational Law, where he has been based since 2011. His articles have been cited in more than 300 publications, including reports by the OECD, UNCTAD, RIETI, the World Economic Forum, the European Parliament, the International Bar Association, and the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

His work with the Institute for Transnational Arbitration includes current service as Vice Chair of the Academic Council, Co-Chair of the Asia Task Force, and member of the Executive Committee. He previously served as Chief of NAFTA/CAFTA-DR Arbitration in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State, where he led the team that represents the United States in investment treaty arbitration.



## **Prof. Franco FERRARI**

Clarence D. Ashley Professor of Law,  
Director, Intesa Sanpaolo Center for Transnational Litigation,  
Arbitration, and Commercial Law  
NYU School of Law

Franco Ferrari is the Clarence D. Ashley Professor of Law and the Director of the Intesa Sanpaolo Center for Transnational Litigation, Arbitration, and Commercial Law at New York University School of Law.

He taught as Full Professor at Tilburg University (Netherlands), as well as Bologna University and Verona University (Italy). He has published more than 380 law review articles, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and case comments, as well as 50 books on conflict of laws, forum shopping, international commercial arbitration, and international business transactions.

Formerly Legal Officer at the UN Office of Legal Affairs, International Trade Law Division, Professor Ferrari is also an active international arbitrator in international commercial and investment disputes, a member of the editorial board of various peer reviewed European law journals, and co-editor of the Encyclopedia of Private International Law (2017), the Cambridge Compendium of International Commercial and Investment Arbitration (2023), and the Concise Encyclopedia of International Commercial Arbitration (2025).



## **Mr. Jacky FUNG**

Senior Associate, Freshfields

Jacky is a senior associate in Freshfields' award-winning international arbitration group in Asia. He has a decade of experience representing clients in complex, high-value disputes with cross border elements.

His work includes advising on international arbitrations under the major institutional rules, including ICC, HKIAC, and ICSID, involving jurisdictions such as the US, Hong Kong, the PRC, the UK, India, Japan, and Pakistan, and spanning a variety of industries. Jacky currently serves as the Deputy General Editor of the Asian Dispute Review and as the Asia Pacific Regional Representative of Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (Young ICCA).

He is also a former Committee Member of HK45 – the group established under the HKIAC for young arbitration practitioners.





## Mr. Xiongfeng LI

Secretary General, South China International Arbitration Center (HK) (SCIAHK)

Deputy Director of International Cooperation, Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA)

Mr. LI Xiongfeng joined SCIA as its Secretary of the Council in 2017 with the main responsibility of assisting members of Council to perform their statutory duties under the Ordinance on the SCIA, China's first regional legislation on arbitration institution. Since 2019, he has been involved in the setting up of SCIAHK and in charge of the Secretariat. He is a member of the drafting group of the SCIAHK Arbitration Rules which are UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules based arbitration rules, and has handled numerous administered commercial arbitration and mediation cases, including those administered by institutions abroad and at home.

Mr. Li obtained his bachelor's degree and master's degrees in Mainland China (Hunan University) and Singapore (NUS), and he is currently an SJD candidate of the University of Hong Kong. He was a qualified Chinese lawyer and foreign legal counsel in Singapore.



## Prof. Christopher TO

Programme Director of the LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at City University of Hong Kong and Barrister.

Dr. Christopher TO (陶榮) is a chartered arbitrator, certified adjudicator and accredited mediator, chartered engineer, chartered information technology professional, barrister-at-law and a law professor (adjunct) who is on the panels of various leading global alternative dispute resolution bodies. He has arbitrated, adjudicated and mediated a variety of cases and is representing clients in cases within the dispute resolution field.

Christopher is currently a barrister, the Programme Director of the LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at the City University of Hong Kong, Visiting Scholar at the University of Science and Technology and was the Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (1998 to 2008). He is the Chairperson of the Hong Kong Mediation Council (a wholly owned entity of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre), Chairperson of the Hong Kong Mediator Accreditation Association Limited, Mediator Accreditation Committee (the body that accredits mediators in Hong Kong). He is also the Chairperson of the Buildings Appeal Tribunal, Member of the Securities and Futures Appeals Tribunal and an Advisory Member of the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council.

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/slsw/about-school/our-people/professor-christopher>



## **Prof. Chao XI**

Dean of the Faculty of Law,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Chao Xi serves as the Dean and Professor at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK LAW). He is internationally recognised for his research and scholarship in Chinese law, corporate law and governance, securities regulation, financial regulation, and empirical legal studies. He has secured numerous competitive research grants, including several prestigious fundings from the Research Grants Council of Hong Kong. In recognition of his deep commitment to teaching excellence, Professor Xi has received the esteemed CUHK Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award in 2010, 2017, and 2022.

Professor Xi is dedicated to public service and has contributed to significant legal reform initiatives. He has served in various roles, including as a member of the Department of Justice's Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Task Force. His expertise has been valued by law firms, multinational enterprises, and government agencies.



## **Prof. Yueming YAN**

Assistant Professor & Assistant Dean (External Engagement)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law

Dr. Yueming Yan is an Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean (External Engagement) at the Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK Law). She also serves as an Editorial Board Member of the Journal of International Economic Law (JIEL), a Co-Chair of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) Asia-Pacific Interest Group, and a Senior Fellow at The University of Melbourne, Law School. She received her PhD in Law from McGill University.

Yueming's research and teaching areas cover international trade and economic law, dispute resolution, sustainable development, and China's laws. She has published in many leading journals such as the JIEL, Journal of International Dispute Settlement, ICSID Review, University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law, Melbourne Journal of International Law, Asian Journal of WTO & International Health Law and Policy, and the Asia Pacific Law Review.

Yueming received the JIEL Excellence in Reviewing Award in 2023. Her PhD dissertation – Improving international investment law's treatment of (anti-) corruption: Towards a more balanced approach – was granted the Award on International Investment Arbitration Law in memory of Piero Bernardini in 2022.





## Prof. Chen YU

Assistant Professor, City University of Hong Kong, School of Law

Dr. Chen YU is an Assistant Professor at the City University of Hong Kong, School of Law. Her research interests include international investment and trade law, international arbitration, interdisciplinary and empirical research of law, and energy regulation.

She has published in leading international law journals including the Journal of International Economic Law, World Trade Review, Journal of International Dispute Settlement, ICSID Review, Journal of World Investment & Trade, etc. Her monograph, *Dispute Settlement and the Reform of International Investment Law: Legalization Through Adjudication*, was published by Edward Elgar in 2023. She was the recipient of the 2022 David D. Caron Prize awarded by the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and currently serves on the Advisory Board of ASIL's International Law & Social Science Interest Group.



## Prof. Yun ZHAO

Henry Cheng Professor in International Law & Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong

Prof. Yun ZHAO, LLB, LLM (China University of Political Science and Law), LLM (Leiden University, the Netherlands), PhD (Erasmus University Rotterdam). Prof. Zhao is Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law, the University of Hong Kong (HKU).

Prof. Zhao is currently Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). He is appointed as Justice of the Peace, HKSAR. He is Standing Council Member of Chinese Society of International Law and Chinese Society of Private International Law; Council Member of Chinese Law Society.

He is listed as arbitrator in several international arbitration commissions. He has published widely on various topics including particularly Space Law, Dispute Resolution.