

## Johnny Mok SC, BBS, JP

**Email Address:**

mail@johnnymok.com

**Year Of Call:**

1986 (Hong Kong)

2006 (Hong Kong Inner Bar)

**Practice Areas:** Administrative and Public Law, Chancery, Commercial Law, Company Law and Insolvency, Competition Law, Land & Planning Law, Securities Law, Tax Law,



From his early days as a law student at Hong Kong University (having won the coveted Winner's Cup at the Law Faculty's Mooting Competition and represented Hong Kong in the initial two years of its participation in the International Jessup Moot Court Competition, as well as various Baker & McKenzie prizes for his distinctive performance), Mr. Mok S.C. has enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top of the legal profession. He has won plaudits particularly for his work on public and administrative law and has been appointed by the Hong Kong Government (and by the PRC Government) to fill a host of responsible positions including an appointment by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China to be one of 12 members on the Basic Law Committee.

Mr. Mok is lauded for his strengths across the board from his practice in the field of constitutional and administrative law to corporate and general commercial work (including trusts and property related litigation). He regularly works with leading counsel from the UK.

Mr. Mok's recent focus has been on technology-related legal issues and cases. He has led the legal team on behalf of the Competition Authority in the first two contested cases heard by the Competition Tribunal. Mr. Mok also advises public bodies and private enterprises in areas ranging from fintech (including virtual banking and crowdfunding), regtech (including the use of big data for regulatory purposes), other information technologies and privacy issues arising from such technologies.

## Directory Quotes:

Johnny Mok SC receives plaudits for his enduring reputation as a "leading counsel in public and administrative law and a highly skilled cross-examiner." His practice spans the constitutional and administrative and general commercial law fields, winning him regular instructions from government entities and corporates alike. "Mok is probably the expert in public law."

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## Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific (2021)

‘ A heavyweight barrister whose submissions are highly respected by the bench. ’ Johnny Mok SC is recognised as a Leading Silk for Commercial Disputes.

## Legal 500 Asia Pacific HK Bar (2021)

Johnny Mok SC, BBS, JP of Des Voeux Chambers stands out for interviewees, not only as an “outstanding advocate,” but more specifically as one who is “a go-to for what looks like a dead duck case or anything involving extreme difficulty,” where he may be relied upon “to think of the points that others haven’t thought of and present them in a way that will be well received by the Bench.” Especially well known as a “go-to counsel for the government” in constitutional cases, he is also noted for “combining commercial and public law expertise,” one source asserting that “his main forte is judicial review cases with a commercial element.”

## Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific (2020)

Johnny Mok SC of Des Voeux Chambers is said by one source to be “one of those people who appear in the most high-profile cases,” while another observes: “If you’re in a really bad situation, just go to him and he’ll come up with something: the chances of success will increase considerably.” Interviewees base these judgements on their view of Mok as “an excellent strategist and most effective advocate who knows how to package a case and what points to push.” A favoured choice of government agencies requiring representation in judicial review cases, he is also sought after for technology-related and competition disputes and appeared for the applicant in *Competition Commission v Nutanix Hong Kong Limited and Others*, the first case to be considered by the new Competition Tribunal.

## Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific (2019)

Johnny Mok SC of Des Voeux Chambers is described by sources as an “obviously very sought after” barrister who is “seen in many high-profile cases.” He is known for his ability to “come up with extremely persuasive arguments that no one else could think of “and which” could turn a bad cases into a good ones.” Maintaining a versatile commercial and public law case, he is particularly well known for his frequent representation of government bodies in judicial review cases, but is by no means restricted to this role, lately acting successfully for four dentists in Court of Final Appeal proceedings which overturned

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disciplinary sanctions imposed upon them by the Dental Council of Hong Kong.

Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific (2018)

“Johnny Mok SC of Des Voeux Chambers is well known for his work in public law and has particularly “impressive regulatory expertise.” His additional capabilities extend across judicial reviews and shareholders’, competition and regulatory disputes.”

Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific (2016)

“Incisive and combative work in the commercial and judicial arenas.”

Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific (2010)

## Expertise:

## Membership and Appointments

- Bronze Bauhinia Star (2016)
- Member, Basic Law Committee, appointed by the National People’s Congress (2007 - up to present)
- Justice of the Peace (2015 - up to present)
- Advisor, Our Hong Kong Foundation (2015 - up to present)
- Advisor, Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre (2010 - up to present)
- Member, Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee Working Group (2015 - up to present)
- Door Tenant, Brick Court Chambers, London (2007 to now)
- Senior Counsel, High Court, Hong Kong (2006 - up to present)
- Member, Air Transport Licensing Authority, Hong Kong (2001 - 2003)
- Member, Hong Kong Consumer Council (1989-1994)
- Advocate and Solicitor, Supreme Court, Singapore (admitted in 1993)
- Part-time Member, Hong Kong Central Policy Unit (1992)

## Selected Cases

- ***Designing Hong Kong Ltd v Town Planning Board*** [2017] 2 HKLRD 60 (CA), FACV 4/2018 (CFA)
- ***Competition Commission v Nutanix Hong Kong Limited & Ors (Discovery)*** CTEA 1/2017 (14.3.18: Competition Tribunal)
- ***Chan Ho Tin v Lo Ying Ki Alan & Ors*** HCAL 162/2016 (13.2.18: Au J)

- ***HKSAR v Wong Ying-ho Kennedy & Ors*** DCCC 190/2017 (8.1.18: HH Judge Douglas Yau)
- ***Chief Executive of the HKSAR v Clerk to the Legislative Council & Ors*** [2017] 4 HKLRD 115 (Au J)
- ***Competition Commission v Nutanix Hong Kong Limited & Ors (Public Interest Immunity)*** CTEA 1/2017 (28.3.17: Competition Tribunal)
- ***Yau Wai Ching v Chief Executive of the HKSAR*** [2017] 1 HKLRD 460 (CA), (2017) 20 HKCFAR 390 (CFA)
- ***Sin Chung Yin Ronald & Ors v The Dental Council of Hong Kong*** (2016) 19 HKCFAR 353 (CFA)
- ***The Registrar of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants v X*** CACV 244/2016 (20.10.17: CA)
- ***Kwok Cheuk Kin v Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs*** (2017) 20 HKCFAR 353 (CFA)
- ***Leung Hon Wai v Director of Environmental Protection*** FACV 2/2015 (18.12.15: CFA)
- ***Commission of Inquiry into the Collision of Vessels near Lamma Island*** on 1 October 2012 (Report: April 2013)
- ***Secretary for Justice v Commission of Inquiry on Allegations relating to The Hong Kong Institute of Education*** [2009] 4 HKLRD 11 (Report: June 2007)

## Scholarships and Awards

- Baker & McKenzie Postgraduate Prize (for Revenue Law and Commercial Law and Practice)
- David Ling Prize (for most promising potential legal practitioner)
- Maxwell Law Prize (for most promising student intending to be a barrister)
- YM Wong Memorial Prize (for Conveyancing and Probate Practice)
- Woo Po Shing Medal in Law (for best performance in advocacy)
- Simon Lee Medal in Law (for best LL.B. degree)
- Baker & McKenzie Prize (for Law of Business Association)
- Baker & McKenzie Scholarship for International Summer Clerkship
- Hong Kong Team, Jessup International Moot Court Competition Washington D.C.
- Winner's Cup, Mooting Competition
- Bernard Downey Book Prize (for all round achievements)
- Representative of Hong Kong in Jessup International Moot Court Competition at New York City
- Ho Food Prize (for academic achievements)
- Member, Dean's Honour Roll, York University
- Member, Cum Laude Society, Phillips Exeter Academy

## Publications, Lectures and Talks

- Co-authored with Richard Gordon Q.C. & Johnny Mok S.C., Judicial Review in Hong Kong