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亚洲法律杂志 - 中国版 CHINA

ALB

FEBRUARY 2020 CHINA EDITION

# 2020 ALB CHINA I U I

2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳诉讼律师

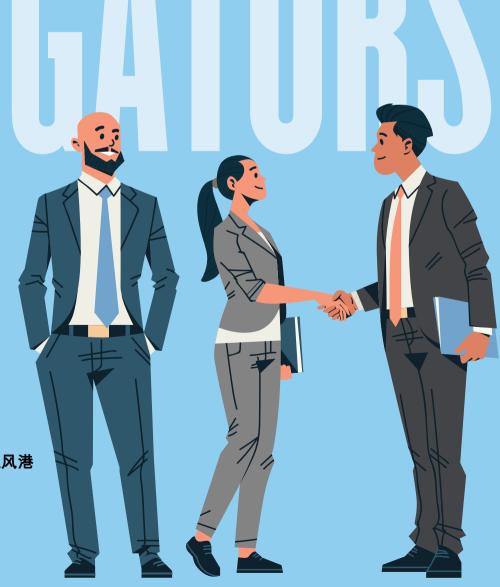
How to take a balanced approach towards insolvency 面对债务危机,寻找平衡之道

Tackling disputes along the Belt and Road "一带一路"沿线的争议解决问题

Offshore jurisdictions provide shelter from the storm

离岸司法管辖区:暴风雨中的避风港





# ALB Shanghai

In-House Legal <sup>2020</sup>上海 企业法律 Summit 2020 顾问峰会

18 June 6月18日 - Shanghai 上海









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# **COVER STORY**

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# **ALB China 2020 Top 15 Litigators** ALB China 2020 十 五佳诉讼律师

China's commercial litigation business has experienced vigorous growth in recent years; and meanwhile Chinese commercial litigation lawyers have enhanced their overall professional competence and global competitiveness through profound accumulation of knowledge and solid experiences. 近些年,中国商事诉 讼业务蓬勃增长,中 国商事诉讼律师们在 整体专业水准与全球 竞争力上也开始厚积 薄发。

Ranking by ALB; text by Kristen Liu

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# **Fighting zombies** 大战"僵尸"

As of 2019, Chinese companies had defaulted on nearly \$20 billion in loans, and the country's default rate is expected to grow further, with the government also less willing to provide support for such defaults. Lawyers say that China needs to take a balanced approach towards its insolvency and restructuring landscape. 2019年,中国公司 债务违约额度接近 200亿美元,违约率 在2020年将继续维 持高点。与此同时, 中国政府对于此类违 约的救助意愿也愈发 降低。律师们说,中 国应该在此种破产重 整图景中寻找一条平 衡之路。

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# A smoother road 更顺畅的道路

As the mammoth Belt and Road initiative touches some 70 countries, complex commercial disputes cannot be avoided. But while the opportunities may come with risks, lawyers in Asia say there are a variety of measures companies can employ to help protect themselves and their business interests.

到目前为止,已经 有近70个国家加入 了"一带一路"倡议这 一庞大工程,复杂的 商业纠纷因此不可避 免。虽然机遇可能伴 随着风险,但亚洲的 律师们表示,企业可

以采取多种措施来保 护自己以及自己的商 业利益。

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# Safer havens 更安全的避风港

With 2020 looking shaky, offshore jurisdictions can provide muchneeded shelter and support for international deals, listings, incorporations and restructurings. 2020年伊始即呈现 动荡局面,离岸司法 管辖区或将为国际交 易、上市、公司注册 以及重组提供必需的 庇护和支持。

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# FROM The Editor

# It's time to put the spotlight on China's litigators. As we

have covered in these pages over the past year and more, China's commercial litigation business is booming. Companies today feel more comfortable of getting fairer judgments, and are seemingly happy with its faster judicial process. The recent economic slowdown and the growing importance of the Chinese consumer market have provided an immediate spur to the trend. As a result, we are seeing an increasing number of high-profile, high-value lawsuits.

It is thus no surprise that litigators are much sought after by China's law firms today. Firms in particular value those who understand the ins-and-outs of China's courts system, but emphasis is also placed on the masters of strategy and execution, who can turn a seemingly difficult cause into a winning one. ALB's Top 15 Litigators list thus honours the best litigation lawyers in the country, across civil, criminal and commercial areas. Congratulations to the winners!

是时候聚焦诉讼律师了。如我们每年报道的,中国律所的商事诉讼业务正在蓬勃增长。在面对争议解决时,中国的公司越来越倾向于选择诉讼和仲裁,相信会等到一个公平和高效的裁决。中国的经济下行以及越发凸显重要性的消费者市场也在促进这个趋势。结果就是,我们看到了越来越多卓越的诉讼律师。

中国律所也对卓越的诉讼律师求才若渴。律所看重那些透彻了解中国司法系统里外的律师,同时策略的实施、赢得艰难的诉讼均是招聘方极度看中的品质。ALB 2020年15佳诉讼律师榜单涵盖了民法、刑法、商法的最优秀的诉讼律师。让我们祝贺他们!

langer sy

RANAJIT DAM, Managing Editor, Asian Legal Business, Thomson Reuters

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# 2020 SCHEDULE OF RANKINGS 2020 年榜单安排

NAME OF RANKING 榜单	MONTH OF PUBLICATION 发布月	NOMINATIONS OPEN* 提名开始日*
2020 ALB CHINA FIRMS TO WATCH 2020 ALB CHINA 精品律所	JANUARY	28 NOVEMBER 2019
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 LITIGATORS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳诉讼律师	FEBRUARY	29 NOVEMBER 2019
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 M&A LAWYERS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳并购律师	MARCH	10 DECEMBER 2019
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 IP IN-HOUSE COUNSEL 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳知识产权法务		22 OCTOBER 2019
2020 ALB CHINA EMPLOYER OF CHOICE 2020 ALB CHINA 年度雇主	- APRIL	3 FEBRUARY 2020
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 TMT LAWYERS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳TMT律师		26 DECEMBER 2019
2020 ALB CHINA IP RANKINGS 2020 ALB CHINA 知识产权排名	MAY	11 FEBRUARY 2020
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 GCS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳总法律顾问	JUNE	4 MARCH 2020
2020 ALB CHINA RISING LAWYERS 2020 ALB CHINA 律师新星	JULY	15 APRIL 2020
2020 ALB CHINA CLIENT CHOICE 2020 ALB CHINA 客户首选律师	- AUGUST	20 MAY 2020
2020 ALB CHINA M&A RANKINGS 2020 ALB CHINA 并购排名		29 MAY 2020
2020 ALB CHINA FASTEST GROWING FIRMS 2020 ALB CHINA 十佳成长律所	SEPTEMBER	16 JUNE 2020
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 NEW ECONOMY IN-HOUSE TEAMS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳新经济法务团队		7 MAY 2020
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 FEMALE LAWYERS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳女律师	OCTOBER	16 JULY 2020
2020 ALB TOP 50 LARGEST LAW FIRMS 2020 ALB CHINA 年亚洲最大50家律师事务所	NOVEMBER	6 AUGUST 2020
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 IN HOUSE TEAMS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳公司法务团队	- DECEMBER	26 AUGUST 2020
2020 ALB CHINA TOP 15 IP LAWYERS 2020 ALB CHINA 十五佳知识产权律师		20 AUGUST 2020

<sup>\*</sup> These dates are subject to change. Please contact ALB for the most up-to-date schedule. \*上述日期可能会有调整,请联系ALB获取最新的报名时间和截止日期。

BIG STORY 焦点故事

# VRUS CRISIS 疫情危机

The coronavirus outbreak that has gripped China over the past few weeks has quickly become the largest public health crisis in the country since the outbreak of SARS in 2003. As we went to print, there had been more than 70,000 confirmed cases nationwide, with the death toll hitting over 1,500. Like all other businesses, law firms have been negatively impacted as well, but they are responding by doing their part to battle the virus and get the country back on track.

2020年中国农历春节前,一场新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情冲击中国,这是自2003年"非典"后,中国遭遇的最大规模公共卫生危机。疫情以湖北武汉为中心蔓延全国,甚至波及海外。原本计划于1月30日结束的春节假期被一再延后,大量企业遭受经济重创,截至本文截稿时,中国共确诊肺炎患者逾7万人,死亡超过1500人。

BY HU YANGXIAOXIAO 作者:胡阳潇潇

China had an unusually long Lunar New Year holiday this year, but it wasn't surprising, given that circumstances have been extremely unusual. Since the start of the Lunar New Year period, the country has been in the throes of an outbreak of the hugely contagious coronavirus.

With health and safety authorities urging people to isolate themselves, the State Council on Jan. 27 announced that the holiday would extended for three more days, until Feb. 2. Local governments were than authorized to decide on whether to extend the holiday beyond that, according to the local situations.

Large Chinese law firms that have offices in different provinces required

their local offices to follow the local governments' announcements when it came to when to reopen. As a result of that law firms came slowly back to work – as did the rest of the country – starting from Feb. 3, with most asking employees to work from home for the following weeks.

Law firms have also been monitoring their staff's health as well as enforcing safety requirements. For example, Tahota Law Firm required all 2000 of their employees to report their status everyday – luckily, no one has been tested positive for the virus. Meanwhile. Hylands Law Firm has been tracking its staff's whereabouts during the holiday soon, and has placed on any

在危机之下,中国律所如何安排 员工和客户?它们原本计划于春节后 展开的业务遭受了怎样的影响?ALB就 此采访了几位律所合伙人,他们纷纷 表示:律所是此场危机的被波及者, 同时也是危机中的援助者和支持者。

# 员工安排

1月27日,国务院首先通知将全国春节假期延长至2月2日,随后,各级政府也根据本地抗疫需求,对是公政统任假期进行了安排。ALB此次访的国浩律师事务所、浩天信和是企业,等务所、泰和泰律师事务所和他位记,不知会的整体安排。基本上,各所在2月3日一周安排了继续休

travel for the time being. "If someone has to go on a business trip, he or she has to do self-quarantine for 14 days after the trip," says Xu Yu, member of the managing committee of Hylands.

The city of Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, is thought to be the epicenter of the epidemic, where the virus is believed to have originated at a local seafood and meat market. The majority of the infected and deaths have been recorded within the city, which has been under lockdown since Jan. 23.

Wuhan-based employees of Grandall Law Firm have been staying at home as per the local government's instructions. Liu Wei, managing partner of Grandall tells *ALB*: "We appointed a local partner to be in charge of coordinating between the headquarters and the local staff on emergencies and donations." It's worth mentioning that "due to the increase of urgent legal assistances needed by our clients, our Wuhan office has continued to provide services ever since the outbreak," Liu adds.

Meanwhile, Tahota was planning to open a new office in Wuhan soon after the holiday, but it has shelved those plans for the time being.

# **HELPING CLIENTS**

Even though lawyers have been staying at home, since the Lunar New Year holiday they are far from idle, having to attend to the urgent needs of clients.

Hylands' Xu tells *ALB* that clients have been desperately seeking on issues such as employment law and contract fulfilment issues. According to *ALB*'s observation, many law firms have been posting legal articles since the end of January and many of those articles also focus on the two issues brought up by Xu. "Should we pay employees during the extended holiday, and if so, how? Can the defense of force majeure be used during the coronavirus outbreak? These are the questions asked most by clients," Xu says.

Meanwhile, Xu Jianjun, vice director of DeHeng Law Offices, has witnessed requests for other kinds of work, which "includes financing, business leases, insurance and insolvency problems, all caused because of the outbreak. Our

"There will be an explosion of legal issues caused by the outbreak over the following months, with the overall impact expected to last for years. Even large law firms would do well to serve more mid-sized and even small companies."

"疫情带来的法律问题会在上半年集中爆发,但影响还将持续至少1到2年。针对疫情受到重大影响的大量中小企业,会让更多大型律所下沉服务。"

Xu Jianjun, DeHeng Law Offices徐建军,德恒律师事务所

lawyers have also written up more than one hundred articles concerning areas such as tourism, internet, medicine intellectual property, international trade, outbound investment, and have delivered those articles to related government and commercial institutions," he says.

Grandall's Liu has observed an urgent need for assistance concerning capital markets. "We have many local Hubei clients that are already listed publicly or are planning to file for IPOs," says Liu. "Some had completed the financing process before the holiday, some had delivered materials to the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and some were planning to organize board meetings or shareholders' meetings, which obviously have been put on hold."

Xu Zhengping, a member of the managing committee of Tahota, shares his insights on other aspects. "Firstly, we encountered the need for legal support from government clients concerning public issues. Local governments have to issue strict regulations under the crisis, and they need to abide to the existing laws because some of those would interfere with personal rights," he said. Tahota has also compiled two guides concerning legal issues with government actions and regulations during the coronavirus outbreak and has provided

假或在家复工,2月10日后则继续采取弹性复工,不强制员工到岗,并建议以远程方式服务客户。

第一时间对延迟复工进行安排外,律所也在疫情期间对员工健康进行了统一监测,并提出了安全更工。 基本事实之所约2000名员工。 每天反馈身体状况,目前尚未出间之一人感染;浩天信和则对春节助局员工进行了详细登记,并鼓励员要自己,并对原为,为大家和客户创造工自安全健康的工作环境",浩天信和管委会成员徐羽律师说。

此外,为了便利员工在家办公,律所也都纷纷提供了技术支持:国浩于2月3日就启动了包括风控中心和利益冲突检索中心在内的后台服务系统,德恒则制定了临时远程办公管理制度,并加大了对视频会议、DM和OA等远程办公支持系统的升级与维护投入。

受访律所中,国浩和德恒已经开设了武汉办公室。国浩集团执行合会人刘维律师告诉ALB,"当地员在一按照政府指令待在家中。我们在团对安排了一位合伙人,负责和集团团接事务处理和物资援助。"值得一提的是,"由于疫情期间有客户产生了的殊和紧急的业务需求,武汉办公室的同事还是在继续提供服务。"

受访律所中,受到影响的还有泰和泰。泰和泰管委会委员许正平律师告诉ALB,律所于春节前刚刚通过了设立武汉办公室的决议,但受疫情影响,目前正式开业时间待定。

# 紧急求助

受访律师都表示,虽然律所按政府要求延迟复工,但受疫情影响,许多客户出现了紧急法律需求,很多律师甚至在春节假期中就提前展开了服务。

# BRIEFS

them to different layers of government institutions.

"Secondly, many of our stateowned enterprise clients are taking up the responsibility of purchasing large amounts of much-needed medical and daily supplies both from China and overseas, which require our lawyers to provide services like contract reviews. Lastly, there is also criminal law issues related to maintaining public order and rules, which are becoming more prevalent recently. We also need to provide guidelines on this," Xu adds.

# **DROP IN WORK**

Much like other businesses, law firms have also been negatively impact by the crisis.

Grandall's Liu tells *ALB*: "The amount of work we are doing has decreased sharply. There has been almost zero new business after the holiday, and the total business volume has decreased 70-80 percent compared to the same time last year."

Liu says that while parts of the transactional work involve documentation that can be done at home, deals can only be hammered out face to face, and thus they have been stalled until after the outbreak eases. On the disputes side, nearly all courts and arbitration centers have postponed their reopening, and lawyers can't even meet their clients now.

Hylands' Xu Yu has similar observations. "Nearly all work that was slated to be carried out after the holiday has now been suspended, with only some remote meetings being arranged with clients. Disputes, M&A deals and investments – all practice areas have been impacted," he says.

Tahota's Xu Zhengping concurs, telling ALB:" The flow of legal work has not reached half of what we would call a 'normal standard."

Some law firms are already anticipating further financial stress. Grandall's Liu anticipates that the outbreak will have great impact on the firm's revenue in February and March. "Several offices were planning to move into new premises after the holiday, and some were thinking about recruiting more people;

"The government will definitely invest more to revitalize the economy after such a crisis, especially the finance, infrastructure, technology and healthcare industries. And it could be anticipated that it will also loosen restrictions on the real estate industry."

"遭遇重大经济影响后,政府必然会有所作为、加大投入,尤其加大对金融、基建、科技、医疗、环保等领域的扶持。此外政府有可能适度放宽目前相对严格的房地产管控。"

- Xu Zhengping, Tahota Law Firm 许正平,泰和泰律师事务所

those plans obviously will be suspended now."

But he also says that the firm will not fire anyone because of the crisis and will not even cut staff's salaries. "If things got worse and we were faced with real financial problems, then we would use the profits planned to be distributed among partners to help the firm operate."

# A SILVER LINING

But lawyers remain optimistic that they will see an increase in work when the outbreak eases. A dispute resolution expert, Xu Yu anticipates the economic fluctuations brought by the epidemic will cause the dispute resolution business to grow, and lawyers should be prepared for this.

Xu Zhengping agrees, and he points out the whole legal market will face a negative impact in the short term. But in the long term, the crisis will throw up more opportunities. "The government will definitely invest more to revitalize the economy after such a crisis, especially the finance, infrastructure, technology and healthcare industries," he explains, "And it could be anticipated that it will also loosen restrictions on the real estate industry, which is one of the quickest ways to revive the economy."

国浩的刘维律师则观察到了客户在资本市场领域的紧急需求。"湖北当地有很多上市公司,包括前沿时间。"他说,"有的客户之前已经,或准备召开董事会或股东大会表决定可以。变情一里,有的或者是实现。交情一复材料,或时间来不及反馈时,都需要我们提供条额,"

泰和泰的许正平律师也补充公共 他几点就律需求:"首先是政府政治是所述。""首先是政府政治是情况的法律需求:面对合动现所,还是情况或多时,不公府政策是一个的政策是对的政府,不会是是不够的。"就此,突发,是是不会的,是是是不会的,是是是不会的,是是是是一个的人。

# 业务降缓

与此同时,律所作为经济参与者,也感受到了疫情对于当下业务的冲击。 国浩的刘维律师告诉ALB:"客户需求 减少得非常厉害。我们现在服务的客 户基本是2019年或春节前接下的,至



# 融力天闻律师 事务所知识产 权案例分享



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# 团队介绍

融力天闻是一家专注于知识产权、商事争议等领域的规模化律师事务所,系由中国最早一批专注文化娱乐等知识产权法律业务的精品律所之一(天闻世代律师事务所)以及在东部沿海地区商之一年等级域具有深厚底蕴的精品律所之一十年,该所致力于打造一支具有国内。在共中,该所致力于打造一支具有国队,在第争议、刑事打击等专业领域不断深耕细作、成绩斐然。

# 案例分享

案例一、激光测距某发明专利无效再审改 判与反不正当竞争案

**承办律师**:孙黎卿律师、朱宁律师

# 案件综述

 关注,部分经销商已与我方客户全面或部 分中止了订单业务或直接终止采购合同。

#### 办案思路

# 代理成效

2019年,深圳地区一审法院支持了我方要求专利权人停止不正当竞争行为、公开消除影响以及损害赔偿的部分诉讼请求,后该专利权人不服一审判决,该案现处于二审审理阶段;2020年,最高院撤销涉案发明专利权的一审、二审判决,维持原复审委做出的涉案发明专利权全部无效的决定。

截至目前,深圳某公司针对本行业相关 企业发起的18起专利索赔诉讼多已撤诉 或被法院驳回。

案例二、被许可人侵害许可商标,两公司 及股东连带承担惩罚性赔偿140余万

**承办律师**:朱宁律师、戴奥杰律师

# 案件综述

在2014年至2018年间,客户公司与被告 丹阳某公司之间的围绕涉案商标产生了 一些的争议案件,包括商标使用合同纠 纷、联营合作期间的利益分配纠纷等案件 一直处于被动地位,客户公司在与被告中 一某公司的商标争议相关案件中多以败件 告终,且通过行政投诉查处的几起案件也 未见良好成效,期间有个别案件还被法院 判令向被告丹阳某公司赔偿30余万元的货款及利息,因双方之间的合作协议条款未 有明确约定,导致客户公司主张在合作期间的商标许可使用费等利益诉求并未得到法院的支持。此外,被告丹阳公司等还大肆在相同商品上使用与客户公司享有的近似商标,对客户公司的商标合法权益及市场份额构成损害,并持续申请了多件与客户公司相同、近似的商标等行为。

# 代理成效

2018年1月,本所正式接受客户公司委托全面开展代理工作,考虑到前案多起前案判决对本案维诉讼的不利影响因素,本所律师重新确定了以"侵权恶意"、"惩罚性赔偿"、"共同侵权"为诉讼要点的系统维权方案,分别在江苏、浙江、北京、上海地区集中展开证据搜集与事实调查,获得了大量的证据材料数据信息。

2018年4月,本所接受客户公司委托,针对丹阳、常州地区两公司及其法定代表,认及浙江地区经营者共计五位被告在南京市中级人民法院发起了商标侵权案,2018年10月一审法院判决上述被告两公司及其法定代表人(两公司的股东)连带赔偿144万元人民币,即按照被告的侵权,44万元人民币,即按照被偿数额,并以定被告两公司及其法定代表人、股东内战共同侵权,2019年江苏省高级人民法院依法维持一审法院的判决。

#### 典型意义

本案涉及了当下惩罚性赔偿、共同侵权行 为等的热点问题,具有典型意义:

- 1. 被告公司与法定代表人共同侵权的 判例,十分少见;
- 被告公司与法定代表人连带承担 140余万元惩罚性赔偿,实属罕 见:
- 3. 厘清了商标法57条、侵权责任法 第8条、公司法63条的法律适用问 题:
- 4. 开辟了知识产权案中的举证责任、 证明度及科学认定赔偿数额的新思 略:
- 体现了中国法院对知识产权案件高规格、严保护的司法实力与审判效率。

# **BRIFFS**

Xu Jianjun also thinks law firms should look at the impact from different angles. He reckons there will be an explosion in legal issues caused by the outbreak over the following months, with the long-term impact lasting for years. "We are already seeing an increase in litigation," he says, "along with insolvency and restruturing cases. And the government will require more legal advice on public health and healthcare." However, this doesn't mean law firms can expect an explosion in revenue, too. "Large law firms would do well to serve more midsized or even small companies," he adds.

#### DOING THEIR PART

Law firms are also doing their bit to help society during this time of crisis. According to *ALB*'s observation, ever since the end of January, nearly all Chinese law firms has been helping to combat the epidemic by organizing donations, advising the government, providing volunteer legal consulting or posting professional articles on their WeChat accounts. Grandall, Tahota and Hylands have all donated large amounts of money and medical supplies to Wuhan, and have posted several dozen articles concerning different legal issues.

Lv Hongbing, a director at Grandall, has advised Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on arranging to bring back Chinese travelers who had been stranded overseas after their flights were cancelled. The firm's managing partner, Shen Tianfeng, has advised China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) on other epidemicrelated issues.

Xu Yu tells *ALB* that the crisis has made him realize that being part of society, lawyers are not immune from these disasters, so they should also do their part to help and support. Xu Zhengping concurs. "Firstly, we need to help the government to conquer all the challenges. Secondly, we need to help impacted companies to properly handle their relationships with employees and business partners."

In addition, "a law firm is also a kind of business, and such crisis will also test its management capability as well as professionalism," he adds. ...

少到目前为止,新业务是几乎停滞的 状态。和去年同期相比,业务量只有 30%。"

就受影响的业务类型来说,刘律师说,非诉业务的案头工作可以远程进行,但最终落地还要等疫情缓解后当面完成。诉讼业务方面,法院和仲裁庭都宣布延期开庭,一些比较紧急的刑事辩护案件,因为按防疫要求提前预约,处理时间也遭延缓。

浩天信和的徐羽律师也做出了类似观察。"原本计划在春节假期后开始的工作现在基本处于停滞状态,只是零碎在安排些会议。"他说,"诉讼方面,各地法院暂缓开庭;非诉方面,包括兼并收购和投资等,也暂时处于相对停滞状态。"

泰和泰的许正平律师则告诉 ALB:"目前法律服务需求量还没有 恢复到正常水平,可能连正常水平的 一半都没有。"

面对业务下降带来的经济压力,部分律所已经提前做出预案。以国浩为例,刘维律师告诉ALB,疫情对2、3月的业绩影响会非常大。"我们有多个办公室预计一季度搬迁,好几个办公室还预计扩大规模,目前首先搬迁时间可能会延后,预计的人员扩张现在实现起来也有压力。"

但他也说,律所不会因为疫情缘故辞退员工,也不会降低薪酬。"如果遇到资金困难,根据国浩的分配制度,2019年度的部分收入原本准备在2020年分配,现在会优先用来保障事务所运行。"

浩天信和的徐羽律师也预计业绩 影响将显现在2、3月份,但"我们还是 会等到疫情过去后总结收入情况,再 调整利润预期"。

# 雨后彩虹

但是律师们对于疫情结束后的业务变化保持着乐观态度。徐羽律师专长于争议解决,他认为2020年初的这场社会及经济波动可能会引发疫情稳定后争议解决类业务的增长,对此律师们要做好应对。

许正平律师同意这一看法,他 指出,由于客户交易量减少和中小 客户遭遇的生存危机,律师行业短 期内都会遭遇负面影响。但他认为, 除未来争议解决的小幅增加外,协 长期看,法律服务行业也可能面必 遇。"遭遇重大经济影响后,政府必然 会有所作为、加大投入,尤其加大领 金融、基建、科技、医疗、环保等领 域的扶持。"他解释说,"此外政府有可能适度放宽目前相对严格的房地产管控,因为促进房地产业发展是快速提升经济活力的方法之一。"

但他也指出,律所未来的收入 预期却并不一定会因此增长,"由于 延迟复工对经济带来巨大影响,各行 业忙于自救,在非诉层面对法律服务 的需求、付费能力与意愿也会下调。 此外,针对疫情受到重大影响的大量 中小企业,会让更多大型律所下沉服 务。"

# 社会角色

此次疫情也考验了律所的社会角色。 根据ALB的观察,自春节假期以来, 各家律所就在以捐款捐物、献计献 策、提供法律志愿服务、发布法律 专业文章等方式参与抗疫。

以受访的三家律所为例,他们对 灾区的捐款捐物额度都达到了百万甚 至数百万元人民币,并陆续在微信公 众号上发布了数十篇法律专业文章。

刘维律师告诉ALB,国浩的首席 合伙人吕红兵律师向全国政协建议以 包机方式接回滞留海外的湖北游客并 得到采纳实施,集团执行合伙人沈田 丰律师也主导全国律协金融证券委向 证监会提出了针对性意见。

徐羽律师说,这次疫情让他看到 律师既是危机共同体中的参与者,也 是帮助者。许正平律师则对"帮助者" 的身份有很大感触。"首先是支公府,政府在这次疫情中遭遇的 理的巨大挑战,在解决危机的了是 理的社会责任,通过支持他们,企 现了律所的社会责任;疫情,律师的 理也带来极大的员工、交易对手的关 系。"

此外,"律所本身也是企业,疫情当头,对我们的运营管理能力和专业服务能力也是考验。"他补充说。



# 产重组领域 国曜品牌

访山东国曜律师事务所管理合伙人程谟伟律师

及书面报告,个别情况下要制作专门 的谈话笔录,做到工作过程中的判断

有事实和法律的依据并形成书面的工

作底稿。这对管理人团队的自我保护

和满足客户需求都是十分必要的。 **其次是项目管理。**项目管理是 办理破产案件的主体工作,也是实 现良好客户体验的基础。其中最为 重要的就是流程管理,流程管理主 要包括工作流程及制度的制定和安 排,人员的配备分工、工作执行的 监督反馈等。流程管理就是日常工 作的开展,工作流程的建立要确定 一定的工作制度,比如档案材料的 管理、日常开支的资金管理、内部 会议和报告制度等,专人负责,由 项目负责人监督实施。同时要注意 工作流程的合理设计,避免重复工 作,科学地将工作进行分解打包,合 理分工,提高项目人员的工作热情。

第三是人才管理。人才管理是 客户管理、项目管理实现优化的基 础。我们致力于加快现有成员的内 部培养,尤其是项目负责人在管理 方面的培养,让他们作为团队的种 子,配备一定人员后就可以主要负 责案件项目。

同时,我们还在团队里积极营造 持续学习的氛围,鼓励团队成员尽可 能多地取得与破产项目工作有关的资 质和证书,必要时招聘高学历或具有 相关资质证书的专业人员,提高团队 的硬性评级标准。

除此之外,我们还会建立更完善 的分项目负责人制度,充分授权,建 立项目奖金,进行业绩考核和激励。

ALB:疫情防控期间,破产、重整案 件有哪些特别的注意事项? 程律师:当前的疫情不仅对人民群



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ALB:近年来山东国曜律师事务所破 产重组业务发展迅速,受到业内瞩 目,请您简要介绍一下国曜破产重 组业务的律师团队。

程谟伟律师:目前中央推行产业升 级、去产能等经济政策,要求处置 "僵尸企业"让渡闲置资源,以此吸引 新的投资,寻找经济增长点,必将导 致有很大一批企业退出市场,正是在 此大环境背景下,国曜所组建了专门 负责破产重组业务的团队。团队由三 名资深高级合伙人牵头,主办律师由 二十几名不同资历的合伙人、律师组 成,外加十几名实习律师、法律秘书 等。破产重组业务市场的扩大也必然 引来激烈的竞争,这对管理人团队建 设提出了更高的要求,只有高效的团 队,才能够做到同时协作办理多起案 件,缩短案件的办理周期,在单位时 间内办理更多的案件,服务更多的客 户,从而在竞争中立于不败之地。

# ALB: 在该执业领域你们是如何树立 和打造"国曜品牌"的?

**程律师:**国曜致力于打造一支可提供 专业、高效、优质服务的破产重组业 务团队,因此对破产管理人团队来 说,**"管理"比"破产"重要**,认识到管 理的重要价值和作用是做好管理人 团队建设的关键。国曜破产团队的 管理主要体现在三个方面:

首先是客户管理。破产管理人 的客户是谁?是债务人企业?是债 权人?我认为都不是。破产管理人 真正的客户是法院,准确的说是破 产案件主办法官和相关分管领导, 因此管理人的工作习惯及服务意识 要与人民法院的工作风格和模式相 吻合,基本的要求是工作内容要书 面化和程序化,有及时的工作简报

众的生命健康造成严重威胁,诸多 民营企业也遭受了重创。在宏观经 济本身下行压力增大及供给侧改革 的大背景下,许多民营企业陷入了 困境。困境中的民营企业选择何种 路径实现"突围"意义重大。破产重 整及预重整制度为困境中的民营企 业提供了有利其发展、再生、退出 的公平合理的环境,具有促进困境 企业再生的价值。启动并运用破产 重整制度需明确启动主体、掌握如 何实操运作,以使困境企业成功"突 围"。我认为律师在具体办案过程中 应注意以下事项:

1.疫情防控期间,重整投资人招 募、重整企业尽职调查等活动客观上 受到一些限制,加剧了重整的不确 定性。管理人应秉持债务人资产价 值最大化原则,加强与债权人、债 务人、潜在投资人的联系沟通,在 法律允许的范围内,报请法院同意 后适当放宽投资人招募和重整计划 草案制定的期限,最大程度维护债 权人和债务人的合法权益。

2.对已进入破产程序的生产经 营防疫物资的债务人企业,无论是 清算还是重整程序, 应积极开展协 调对接工作,第一时间恢复和维持 企业的生产经营能力,经营期间支 付的职工工资、为维持正常经营发 生的借款等,可依法认定为共益债 务随时清偿,最大限度保障防疫物 资的生产、供应。

3.在制定重整计划过程中,应结 合国家和地方政府已经出台的涉及缓 交社会保险和部分税款、职工工资 支付、贷款适当展期、税收减免、 房租减免等系列企业减负措施,最 大限度降低破产成本,提升债务人 企业的重整价值。

# APPOINTMENTS 律师转所信息



# ANGELA CUI 崔磊

LEAVING 原就取律所
King & Wood Mallesons 金杜律师事务所
JOINING 现就取律所
Miao & Co
缪氏律师事务所(汉坤香港联营律师行)

PRACTICE 业务领域

Private Equity, Cross-border M&A, Complex Commercial Transactions 私募股权投资、跨境并购、复杂商事交易

LOCATION 地点

Hong Kong SAR 中国香港特别行政区



# FENG AI 冯艾

LEAVING 原就职律所
King & Wood Mallesons 金杜律师事务所
JOINING 现就职律所

JunHe 君合律师事务所

PRACTICE 业务领域

Capital Markets, M&A, Private Equity/ Securities Investment Funds 资本市场、公司与并购、私募股权/创业投资

> LOCATION 地点 Hangzhou 杭州



# DENNING JIN 金立宇

LEAVING 原就取律所 Haiwen & Partners 海问律师事务所 JOINING 现就职律所

Han Kun Law Offices 汉坤律师事务所

PRACTICE 业务领域

Dispute Resolution, Intellectual Property 争议解决、知识产权

LOCATION 地点 Shanghai 上海



# SHAUN WU 吴壮辉

LEAVING 原就职律所 Kobre & Kim 美国高博金律师事务所

JOINING 现就职律所 Paul Hastings 普衡律师事务所

PRACTICE 业务领域

Corporate Investigation, Anti-corruption Compliance, White-collar Defense

企业调查、反腐败合规、白领辩护

LOCATION 地点
Shanghai/Hong Kong SAR
上海/中国香港特别行政区



# **ZHANG JIAN 张健**

<u>LEAVING 原就职律所</u>
Commerce & Finance Law Offices
通商律师事务所

JOINING 现就职律所 Shihui Partners 世辉律师事务所

PRACTICE 业务领域

Securities Issuance, IPO, Restructuring, Cross-border M&A, Private Equity

境内外证券发行与上市、 重组、跨境并购、私募融资

> LOCATION 地点 Beijing 北京



# ZHANG XINGZHONG 张兴中

<u>LEAVING 原就职律所</u> King & Wood Mallesons 金杜律师事务所

> JOINING 现就职律所 JunHe 君合律师事务所

PRACTICE 业务领域

Capital Markets, Real Estate and Construction, Dispute Resolution

资本市场、房地产和建筑工程、争议解决

LOCATION 地点 Hangzhou 杭州



# 國楓津師事務所

GRANDWAY LAW OFFICES

# 企业商标布 **計要点解**

北京棉田仿制品有限公司(北京棉田公司)诉日本株 式会社良品计画(日本良品计画)侵害其在第24类商品上享 有的商标权一案,法院于近期作出生效判决,认定日本良品 计画构成商标侵权,并支付损害赔偿50万元及合理支出12万 余元,结束了双方十几年的"无印良品"商标之争。该判决一 经作出,就引起社会广泛关注和强烈反响,不少人甚至认 为法院有"保护假冒品,打压正品"之嫌。然而,该案正是日 本良品计画未做好商标布局而遭受损害的典型案例,其经验 值得所有企业借鉴。

# 一、日本良品计画商标侵权纠纷案情分析

日本良品计画早于1999年就向我国商标局申请注册"無印良 品"商标,核定使用的服务类别为第20、21、27类等商品或 服务,但其并未在第24类"棉织品、毛巾、浴巾、枕套……" 商品上申请注册。2000年,海南南华实业贸易公司(南华公 司)在第24类商品上申请注册了"无印良品"商标。

在南华公司的"无印良品"商标获得初步审定并公告后,日本 良品计画立即向商标局提出异议。在长达12年的时间里,该 商标经过异议、异议复审、行政诉讼一审、二审和再审,最 终该商标仍被维持注册。2004年,南华公司将该商标转让给 北京棉田公司。生效判决认定,在南华公司申请注册"无印良 品"商标时,日本良品计画并未在中国境内宣传和使用"無印 良品"商标,该商标不具备一定影响,南华公司申请注册该 商标的行为正当,其依法享有在第24类商品上使用"无印良 品"商标的专用权。

日本良品计画明知北京棉田公司在第24类商品上合法享有"无 印良品"商标,仍然在该类别对应的浴巾、面巾、地巾等商品 上使用"無印良品""MUJI無印良品""无印良品MUJI"标识,故 被北京棉田公司诉至法院。

法院判决认定,日本良品计画在以上商品的商标使用行为容 易导致相关公众混淆,构成侵权。法院特别强调,在两个商 标分别由北京棉田公司和日本良品计画注册的情况下,双方 更应严格按照《类似商品和服务区分表》中的商品分类进行 使用,避免落入他人注册商标专用权的范围。此外,在他人 合法享有相关注册商标专用权的情况下,日本良品计画品牌



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的知名度,不能成为其在同一种或类似商品上使用与他人注 册商标相同或近似商标的理由。

# 二、该案对企业进行商标布局的启示

日本良品计画作为知名跨国公司,因早期商标布局失策,不 得不接受与他人共用"无印良品"品牌的局面,应当为所有企业 敲响警钟。企业若想拓展市场,健康发展,应当尽量做好商 标布局与保护。

首先,商标布局要趁早。企业应当尽早进行商标注册,我国 法律规定商标注册人享有商标专用权,权利人想要保护商标, 须向商标局申请注册。未注册商标可获得的保护十分微弱。 因此,企业应当尽早了解拟注册商标的申请情况,如果未被 注册则尽快申请注册;如果不幸被注册,也要尽可能了解申 请人的实际使用情况,分析是否存在撤销或者无效宣告的可 能,为自己的商品或服务进入市场扫清障碍。

其次,注册类别要齐全。日本良品计画已经在第20、21、27 类商品上成功注册了商标,却并未在第24类商品上申请注 册。然而,第24类中的"枕套、坐垫、盖垫"等商品与第20类中 的"枕头、软垫、垫枕、睡垫"等商品可能构成类似商品。日本 良品计画没有在第24类商品上申请注册,尤其是其尚未在我 国实际宣传销售,导致南华公司抢先注册。因此,企业在申 请注册商标时,应当尽量综合考虑商标的使用范围,包括在 类似商品上的注册,争取注册类别齐全,以防他人趁虚而入。

最后,使用商标要规范。"无印良品"系列案件最早由日本良品 计画提起,其对北京棉田公司不规范使用注册商标的行为提 起侵害商标权诉讼,并获得法院支持。然而,由于日本良品 计画在实际使用商标时也不规范,其销售的商品类别落入了 北京棉田公司第24类注册商标的保护范围,因此北京棉田公 司才有机会进行反制。企业在使用注册商标时,应当关注自 身注册商标的核定使用范围,以及市场上其他企业相同或近 似商标的核定使用范围,避免发生争议。

因此,为保障企业长期健康的发展,企业应趁早做好商标 布局,全面注册商标类别,规范使用注册商标,避免他人 有机可乘。

# DEALS 交易

# **S4.5 BLN**

# Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Rail's Shanghai IPO

Deal Type: IPO Firms: King & Wood Mallesons Jurisdictions: China

# 京沪高铁上交所上市

交易类型:上市 参与律所:金杜律师事务所 管辖地:中国

# **2.2 BLN**

# **Gaw Capital Partners'** Gateway Real Estate Fund VI

Deal Type: Private Equity Firms: Baker McKenzie Jurisdictions: Hong Kong SAR, Luxembourg, Singapore

# 基汇资本完成基汇房地产基金VI最后轮募资

交易类型:私募基金 参与律所:贝克·麦坚时国际律师事务所 管辖地:中国香港特别行政区, 卢森堡,新加坡

# JD.com's SEC-Registered notes offering

Deal Type: DCM Firms: Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Maples and Calder, Zhong Lun Law Firm, Davis Polk & Wardwell, JunHe Jurisdictions: China, U.S.

# 京东发行10亿美元债券

交易类型:债券 参与律所:世达律师事务所 迈普达律师事务所,中伦律师事务所, 达维律师事务所,君合律师事务所

管辖地:中国,美国

# **S565 MLN**

# Financing of Well Harvest Winning Refinery

Deal Type: Financing Firms: Global Law Office, Norton Rose Fulbright, Oentoeng Suria & Partners, Walkers

Jurisdictions: China, Indonesia

# 中国宏桥集团印尼宏发韦立氧化铝公司项目 贷款融资

交易类型:融资 参与律所:环球律师事务所,诺顿罗氏律 师事务所,印度尼西亚Oentoeng Suria & Partners律师事务所,汇嘉律师事务所 管辖地:中国,印度尼西亚

# S550 MLN

# AKMMeadville Electronics' acquisition of TTM Technologies' mobility business unit

Deal Type: M&A Firms: Tian Yuan Law Firm, O'Melveny & Myers Jurisdictions: China, U.S.

# 安捷利美维电子收购美国迅达科技公司移 动事业部

交易类型:并购 参与律所:天元律师事务所. 美迈斯律师事务所 管辖地:中国,美国

# **S510 MLN**

# Gongniu Group's Shanghai IPO

Deal Type: IPO Firms: Shanghai United Law Firm Jurisdictions: China

# 公牛集团上交所上市

交易类型:上市 参与律所:上海联合律师事务所 管辖地:中国

# 329 MLN

# China Merchants Commercial Real Estate Investment's **Hong Kong IPO**

Deal Type: IPO Firms: Baker McKenzie, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, JunHe, Maples Group, Zhong Lun Law Firm Jurisdictions: China, Hong Kong SAR

# 招商局商业房地产投资信托基金香港上市

交易类型:上市

参与律所:贝克·麦坚时国际律师事务所. 富而德律师事务所,君合律师事务所, 中伦律师事务所,迈普达律师事务所 管辖地:中国,中国香港特别行政区

# **S283 MLN**

# UCloud's Shanghai STAR Market IPO

Deal Type: IPO Firms: JunHe, Llinks Law Offices Jurisdictions: China

# 优刻得科创板上市

交易类型:上市 参与律所: 君合律师事务所, 通力律师事务所 管辖地:中国

# **S283 MLN**

# Jiumaojiu's Hong Kong IPO

Deal Type: IPO Firms: Miao & Co., Zhong Lun Law Firm, Mayer Brown, JunHe Jurisdictions: China, Hong Kong SAR

# 九毛九香港上市

交易类型:上市 参与律所: 缪氏律师事务所 (汉坤香港联营律师行) 中伦律师事务所, 孖士打律师事务所, 君合律师事务所

管辖地:中国,中国香港特别行政区

# 通商津師事務所

COMMERCE & FINANCE LAW OFFICES

# 冠疫情能否构 可抗力或情

崔温 合伙人 cuiqiang@tongshang.com

自新型冠状病毒肺炎疫情("新冠疫情")爆发 以来,政府采取的系列控制措施影响了诸 多合同的顺利履行。本文将以购物商场租 赁合同为切入点,分析新冠疫情能否构成 商事合同履行中的不可抗力或情势变更。

- 新冠疫情与不可抗力
- 新冠疫情是否属于商业租赁合同中 (-)的不可抗力
- 政府明令暂停营业致使租赁合同不 1. 能履行的,新冠疫情构成不可抗力

根据我国《民法总则》第180条、《合同 法》第117条的规定,不可抗力的适用条 件为:发生了不能预见、不能避免、不 能克服的客观情况导致合同不能履行。

新冠疫情作为一种突发的传染性疾病,具 有不能预见、不能避免、不能克服的客观 性,但援引不可抗力作为免责事由的另一 重要前提是:不可抗力与合同不能履行间 需具有因果关系。

新冠疫情期间,部分地方政府要求暂停开 放本行政区域内的网吧、影(剧)院及KTV 等娱乐场所。对于经营上述娱乐场所的商 户来说,由于政府采取的控制措施,致使 租赁合同在一定期间内不能履行,此时新 冠疫情应当构成不可抗力。

# 未导致租赁合同不能履行的,新冠 疫情不构成不可抗力

对于政府并未要求暂停营业的商户,虽然 其营业额很可能会因客流减少而大幅度下 降,但新冠疫情并未导致租赁合同不能履 行,不应当构成不可抗力。

#### 新冠疫情构成不可抗力的法律后果 (=)

作为一种法定的免责事由,触发不可抗 力将产生两种法律后果:一、解除合同: 二、部分或全部免除责任。

对于政府明令暂停营业的商户,若政府及 时取消了禁令,那么新冠疫情尚不足以致 使合同目的无法实现,租户只能要求减免 暂停营业期间的租金,而不能要求解除租 赁合同; 若政府未及时取消禁令, 合同不 能如期履行致使合同目的无法实现,那么 商户有权依据不可抗力要求解除合同。

- 新冠疫情与情势变更
- (一) 新冠疫情是否构成商业租赁合同中 的情势变更
- 对于擅自停业的商户,新冠疫情不 1. 构成情势变更

适用情势变更原则的前提之一是,合同赖 以生存的基础发生了变更。对于擅自停业 的商户, 若新冠疫情并未使得其承租房屋 的目的落空,继续履行租赁合同并不会对 商户不公平的,新冠疫情不构成情势变更。

#### 对于受疫情影响较大的商户,新冠 2. 疫情构成情势变更

对于餐饮、服饰等领域的商户来说,疫 情期间客流的减少可能会导致其营业额 锐减甚至被迫停业,此时再要求商户按 照租赁合同约定支付租金会对其明显不 公平。司法实践中也有判例认为,当疫 情的发生给商户造成了超出市场风险的 经济损失时,商户可依据情势变更原则 要求业主减免租金。

# 对于受疫情影响较小的商户,应正 确区分情势变更和商业风险

对于受疫情影响较小的租户,需区分导致 营业额下降的客观情况,正确识别商业风 险和情势变更。

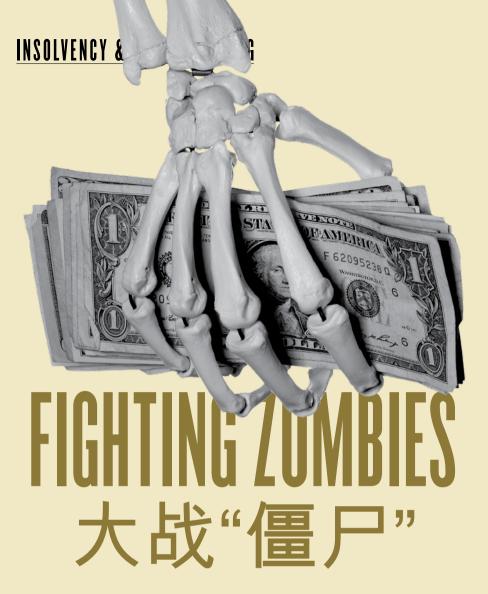
例如,由于疫情期间出行限制及物资的短 缺,超市的营业额很可能不降反升,此时 继续履行租赁合同并不会产生明显不公平 的结果,疫情的发生也不应当构成情势变 更。但并不排除公众为减少出行选择通过 电商平台购买日用物品,从而影响超市正 常经营的可能性,在这种情形下,租金调 整的比例也应当与超市营业额受疫情影响 降低的幅度成正相关。

#### 新冠疫情构成情势变更的法律后果 (=)

适用情势变更原则也会产生变更或解除合 同的法律后果。但基于契约严守原则,首 先应当维护已生效的民事法律关系,只有 在变更合同仍会对一方当事人不公平或仍 不能实现合同目的时,才应当考虑解除合 同。因此,即使新冠疫情构成商业租赁中 的情势变更,通常情况下商户只能要求业 主减免租金,但仍需继续履行租赁合同。

#### 结论 三、

综上本文认为,因各商事主体受影响程度 不同,不能概括地说新冠疫情构成不可抗 力、情势变更,或仅属于商业风险。在疫 情期间,被政府明令暂停营业的商户可以 主张不可抗力;未被政府明令暂停营业但 经营严重受疫情影响的商户可主张情势 变更: 既未被政府明令暂停营业、经营 也未明显受疫情影响的商户,应自行承 担商业风险。



As of 2019, Chinese companies had defaulted on nearly \$20 billion in loans, and the country's default rate is expected to grow further. In the next two years, companies will owe hundreds of billions of dollars in debt that is coming due, with the government also less willing to provide support for such defaults. Lawyers say that China needs to take a balanced approach towards its insolvency and restructuring landscape.

2020年中国债务违约率预计出现上升。2019年底, 天物集团12.5亿美元境外债违约,创下20年来国企首 例,于此同时,包括中国华信能源、海航集团在内的 一系列中国企业也频现违约。截至2019年底,中国企 业出现了近200亿美元的债务违约,违约率在2020年 将继续维持高点。未来两年,中国企业将有数千亿美 元债务到期,而中国政府对于这类违约的救助意愿也 在逐渐降低。

BY HU YANGXIAOXIAO 作者:胡阳潇潇

The rapid growth of Chinese companies has led to a surge in borrowing, and companies are under unprecedented financial pressure as the debt is coming due. For example, in late 2019, Tewoo Group Corp failed to repay its \$1.25 billion offshore bond, marking the first offshore default by a stateowned enterprise (SOE) in 20 years. The country also saw more defaults by Chinese companies such as CEFC China Energy and HNA Group.

The Chinese government has also changed its practice of "providing support to secure employment" and strengthened market-based measures to regulate the exit mechanism for the companies. "At the national policy level, it is a general trend that the exit mechanism for market entities will follow marketization and rule of law. The 'Reform Plan on Improving the Exit Mechanism for Market Entities' issued by 13 agencies including the National **Development and Reform Commission** and the Supreme People's Court in July 2019 also reflected this core idea. The fifth portion of the plan mentioned the improvement of the exit mechanism for SOEs," says Chi Weihong, managing partner at Tiantong & Partners.

"From a legal perspective, the government is never obliged to subsidize SOEs that are facing huge debt or bankruptcy. The government is less willing to help these SOEs for their defaults and is pushing them to the market to let it determine their survival, development or withdrawal," says Zhu Linhai, senior partner at Allbright Law Offices. "This points to the improvement of the government's ability to rule the country in accordance with the law. It is also an example of optimizing the business environment and adhering to the principles of marketization and rule of law."

On the other hand, the government intends to make other market entities take more responsibilities. "The government is encouraging and, in some cases, effectively forcing banks and creditors to take more proactive actions, such as to deal with zombie companies. What it means is that banks can no longer extend the maturity date and then continue as if nothing has happened. The rationale

behind this is to recycle capital back into a positive economy, and to move towards building a functioning system with more market discipline," Viola Jing, of counsel in Allen & Overy's Asian Restructuring & Recovery Group shares with ALB.

# THE FIRST TO BE HIT

The dual pressures of debt maturity and changes in government attitudes will inevitably hit the SOEs first. "The SOEs with poor compliance and risk management usually have an ill-founded internal management system, a backward business model, and poor awareness of risk control. They always rely on the support from government policies and subsidies. Once the market takes over, these enterprises will exit the market as they cannot cope well," Zhu says.

Meanwhile, data shows that listed companies are also struggling. "In 2019, seven listed companies underwent restructuring, hitting another record after 2008," Chi says. "In addition, nearly 50 listed companies filed for restructuring. Among the Chinese companies, financial institutions and listed companies have the best capability to pay their debts. If many of the listed companies are seeing defaults, entering bankruptcy, and restructuring, it shows that even the most capable companies have exceeded their limits."

He also noted that this trend is likely to continue in 2020. "More listed companies will undergo restructuring compared to 2019. The new Securities Law, which will come into effect on March 1, stipulates that when a listed company meets the delisting conditions, there will be no longer be a suspension of listing and the company will delist directly. Therefore, listed companies with a debt crisis will have a more urgent need to initiate restructuring," he adds.

# RIPPLE EFFECTS

This round of default crisis of the Chinese companies is also poised to create ripple effects for other market entities and even overseas markets.

If the Chinese government intends to increase the sense of responsibility of other market players while fighting the zombie companies, these efforts are

中国企业的飞速发展导致了大 量债务的产生,随着这些债务的相 应到期,企业感受到了前所未有的 资金压力。加之中国政府一改以往" 以救助保就业"的做法,强化以市场 化手段规制企业退出制度,反映到 法律市场上,则表现为债务重组和 破产重整业务的日益增长。

天同律师事务所管理合伙人池 伟宏告诉ALB:"在国家政策层面. 市场主体退出机制建设遵循市场 化、法治化是大趋势。2019年6月 发改委、最高法院等13个部委印发 的《关于加快完善市场主体退出制 度改革方案》也表达了这个核心思 想,其中第五部分专门提出了完善 国有企业退出机制。

"从法律层面讲,政府对于陷入 债务危机、濒临破产的国企原本就 没有法定救助义务。政府对国企的 债务违约救助意愿逐渐降低,将其 彻底推向市场,其生存、发展、退 出完全由市场来决定。"锦天城律师 事务所高级合伙人朱林海说,"这正 是政府依法治国工作能力的提升, 也是优化营商环境、坚持市场化、 法治化原则的具体体现。

同时,其他各参与方也在承担 越来越大的责任。"政府希望鼓励 在某些情况下甚至会强迫银行和 债权人采取更为积极的行动,包括 主动对僵尸企业展开行动。也就是 说,银行不能总是延长到期日,继 续假装一切都好。政府希望资本能 够借此重新流入更为健康的经济市 场之中,打造更有效且更受市场规 则约束的经济体系。"以上是安理国 际律师事务所(Allen & Overy,或 简写为A&O)"债务重组和追收业务 组"顾问律师郑翠苗(Viola Jing)接 受ALB采访时表达的看法。

# 首当其冲

此轮债务到期和政府态度变化双重压 力下首先受到冲击的必然是国有企 业。"那些合规管理和风控管理能力 比较差的国企,它们一般内部经营管 理体制不健全,经营模式落后,风控 意识较差,总是依赖政府在政策、经 济方面给予扶持。一旦全面市场化, 这类企业将因适应市场能力差,最终 退出市场。"朱林海律师说。

与此同时,数据表明上市公司 的日子也不好过。"2019年有7家上 市公司重整,创下了2008年后的历 史又一新高。"池伟宏律师说,"此外 2019年被申请重整的上市公司达到 了14个。在中国企业中,最有偿债 能力的就是金融机构和上市公司 如果后者都已经出现大量债券违 约、进入破产重整的情况,说明最 有偿债能力的板块也承受了较大的 债务压力。"

池律师同时指出,这一势头在 2020年将延续,"(上市公司重整案 例)甚至会比2019年多。因为新《 证券法》将在3月1日实施,其中规 定在上市公司符合退市条件时,将不 再有暂停上市制度而可能直接终止上 市。因此存在债务危机的上市公司会 产生更迫切的需求去启动重整。

# 连锁效应

这一轮中国企业的债务违约危机也 必然引发其他市场主体甚至境外市 场的连锁反应。

如果说中国政府在打"僵尸"的同 时意图提升其他市场参与者的责任 感,这样的努力显然已初现成效。 卓文(Ian Chapman)是A&O亚太 地区重组业务联席负责人,他告诉 ALB: "本所多年以来致力于为大中 型中资银行客户提供法律服务,助 其应对境内外风险敞口。我们注意 到这些银行已开始组建自己的重组 团队,增强处理特殊资产的能力 以应对日益严重的违约危机。如何 妥善应对违约如同挑战一场日益复 杂且艰难的棋局。"

"银行也逐渐通过建立项目监控 名单和贷款追踪系统,以尽可能避 免被动局面并增强监控。一旦债务 人出现信用恶化势头,就可以在其 仍存留部分现金、可行业务及若干 重组方案的情况下提前介入采取行 动。我们现在认为,大多数中资银 行客户具备了引导公司走出困境的 经验和专门知识。"A&O亚太地区重 组业务联席负责人韦国俊(Richard Woodworth)补充说。

随着亚太市场的联系日益紧 密,中国企业此波债务重组风潮的 影响也绝不仅限于国内。"现在,许 多中国大中型企业进入全球市场 选择在新加坡或香港上市。越来越 多的中国公司的重组都带有大量境 外因素。"韦国俊补充道。郑翠苗则 补充说:"随着中国法律和监管环境 的发展,境外债权人将有更多机会 针对中国境内实体和资产采取直接 行动。因此,债权人,无论是国际 银行或中资银行,或其境内外分支

# INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

"There are four criteria to test if a restructuring case is successful. The first is the outcome, as the court has to approve the restructuring plan. Second is the complexity and the scale of the case. The larger the debt amount or asset size is, the more complex the case is. Third is the influence of the case. Lastly, speed and efficiency are also important considerations." — Chi Weihong, Tiantong & Partners

paying off. Ian Chapman, co-head of Allen & Overy's Asian restructuring practice tells *ALB*: "We have been very focused on the major PRC banks for a number of years, in respect of their onshore as well as offshore exposures, and we have noted that they are responding to the increasing levels of default by building up their workout teams, building up a special asset expertise. It's an increasingly sophisticated game being played on how these things should be run."

"Banks are also increasingly seeing the need to be less reactive and to monitor situations as they develop databases with watchlists and trackers. This allows them to follow their credit portfolios and track when credits start to deteriorate with the goal of stepping in and taking action when there is still some cash and a viable business and still a few more options available to restructure. We'd now say that well over a majority of our Chinese banking clients have experience and know how to guide companies through the situations," adds Richard Woodworth, fellow practice co-head.

As the Asia-Pacific markets become increasingly interlinked, the impact of this wave of debt restructuring by Chinese companies is not only an issue for domestic market. "We've seen the emergence into the global markets of a large number of major Chinese corporates. They've got Singapore listings, they got Hong Kong listings. More and more Chinese restructurings now have a very significant offshore element," Woodworth says. "The development

of the legal and regulatory environment in China now gives offshore creditors more opportunities to take direct action against PRC entities and assets. Creditors, whether international banks or PRC banks, onshore or offshore branches, are now more willing and prepared to take direct enforcement action within the PRC," Jing adds.

# LEGAL WORK GROWING

For law firms, this scenario means more restructuring work; it also meant that they are playing a wider role. Zhu cites a case handled by Allbright on behalf of an East China SOE as an example. "The company's debt ran high as the original legal representative was derelict in his duty and the management was disorganized, which led to a large number of lawsuits. Due to protectionism for SOEs, the shareholders provided quarantees for the company's debt and fell into heavy debt themselves. Before the East China company filed for bankruptcy, we took a comprehensive look at its assets, liabilities, and litigation," he says.

"We sought reverse piercing of the corporate veil through judicial auditing, and we tried to recover as many assets as possible through criminal recovery of stolen property," Zhu adds. "These efforts helped all creditors credit bid their claims after the company moved into bankruptcy proceedings, and the company was able to exit the market legally and efficiently. This demonstrates that legal service providers can play a bigger role," he says.

In terms of legal work, Zhu says the number of bankruptcy restructuring and liquidation cases has been on a rise since the second half of 2018.

Allen & Overy's restructuring practice team draw the same conclusion. "And now that there has been this policy shift towards market discipline and allowing defaults, the number of defaults is only going to keep increasing," Woodworth comments.

Law firms have adopted different strategies to improve their services against this backdrop. "In Asia, it's still guite often seen as more of a litigation practice. Whereas what we think is it's a far more holistic practice. The philosophy of our team is that our clients expect Asian based specialist restructuring lawyers like ours who not only understand banking and finance, but also know their way around M&A. Even so, litigation capabilities are essential which is why our team uniquely is an integrated team, and one with a real depth of Chinese language skills – I think you need all these combined skills if you are looking to find the best solution for all stakeholders," Woodworth continues.

Jing of Allen & Overy notes: "Building on Richard's comments, in this region, most of our clients accept that it is not easy to engage in a restructuring discussion before a crisis occurs and so they expect advice on enforcement and litigation strategies in order to push the company to engage in restructuring discussions with them. The client's expectation is no longer just insolvency litigation expertise or transactional rescheduling or re-papering expertise, but for a team like ours which offers a combined skillset to deal with all of the challenges in a cross-border scenario."

Chi suggests four criteria to test if a restructuring case is successful. "The first is the outcome, as the court has to approve the restructuring plan. Second is the complexity and the scale of the case. The larger the debt amount or asset size is, the more complex the case is. Third is the influence of the case. Lastly, speed and efficiency are also important considerations," he says.

He cites the restructuring that Tiantong handled on behalf of listed company Pangda Automobile Trading Co. Ltd. as an example. It generally takes 11 months to complete restructuring in China, but it took only 95 days for the case to be established and approved by the court. In terms of complexity, Pangda's debt amounted to 24.7 billion yuan, involving negotiations with 164 financial institutions. The group also had around a thousand subsidiaries and 300,000 shareholders. "To be able to close a case under such enormous pressure in a short time is a good outcome," he says.

# **ADDING VALUE**

As more Chinese companies default, law firms hope to provide value-added services in other ways. The most typical is to initiate a dialogue between creditors and the company as early as possible to avoid catastrophic consequences.

Woodworth tells ALB that they have a number of deals where the creditors have been very active in pushing the company for engagement. He shares one example: "There was a fairly high profile Chinese conglomerate and the creditors spotted that the group was likely heading towards difficulties and quickly got organized with a creditors' committee. They took leadership, put pressure on the debtor group to engage and to work with the committee to find a solution. As a result, they were able to get to a position where the debtor was able to successfully refinance their liabilities with a number of the lenders being comfortable to continue with the relationship."

But he also points out: "But one of the key challenges in Mainland China like in Hong Kong is that it can be pretty hard for a creditor to work collaboratively to find solutions, unless the company is willing to engage and recognize it has a problem. In other jurisdictions around the world, there is greater ease to get the problem addressed earlier if there are potential personal liabilities for directors who fail to seek help. At the moment, both Mainland China and Hong Kong are very lenient in this area, which means directors more often than not carry on too far and too long and the banks can only get involved when they're already at crisis point."

"首先是重整效果,法院要批准重整计划;其次是看案件本身的难度和规模——负债规模或资产规模越大的案件,它的难度可能也会相应增加;第三是案件的影响力;最后,速度和效率也是非常重要的评判标准。"-»#宏,天同律师事务所

机构,更有意愿也更便于直接在中 国境内采取债务执行行动。"

# 业务增长

在这样的情况下,律师事务所扮演着怎样的角色?朱林海律师告诉ALB:"在这样的大环境下,包括律师事务所在内的社会中介机构将会发挥更大的作用。"

他以锦天城近期代理的某央企 华东公司申请破产一案为例,"该公 司因原法定代表人的职务犯罪,以 及公司经营管理混乱等原因,导致 债台高筑,产生大量诉讼案件。由 于受央企国企的保护主义影响 公 司股东对公司债务提供担保,也陷 入债务泥潭中。我们在华东公司申 请破产前,对其资产负债、涉诉情 况进行了全面梳理;通过司法审计 否定了公司股东和法人人格混同, 通过刑事追赃尽可能多地追回资 产。为了在华东公司进入破产程序 后,所有债权人可以实现更多的债 权,也为了华东公司可以合法高效 地退出市场。这证明了法律服务机 构可以发挥更大作用。

而在业务数量上,朱律师指出:"自2018年下半年至今,破产重整及清算业务量经历了不断上涨。"

A&O债务重组团队也认可这样的结论。韦国俊认为:"由于现在的政策偏向更有利于市场规则发挥作用并允许企业债务违约,违约现象只会越来越多。"

在这种背景下,如何把法律服务做好,不同律所也采取空常看A&O,不同律所也然经常,A&O则将这业务,A&O则将这项业务定位于提供全方位及独强多。我们的发生全生律服务。我们的专业重组建设证,为核心,精通财力,更了解客户常驻实力为核心,精通购行与金融业务,更了解客户团队是易的方方面面。因此A&O团队是

一支独一无二的、拥有扎实中文能力和综合业务实力的一体化专业团队。A&O这种具备综合服务技能的律师团队正是该行业内各参与方的不二之选。"韦国俊继续表示。

池伟宏律师将破产重整案例是否成功的判断因素分为四点:"首先是重整效果,法院要批准重整计划;其次是看案件本身的难度可规模——负债规模或资产规模越应的案件,它的难度可能也会相应后,第三是案件的影响力;最后,速度和效率也是非常重要的评判标。"

# 增值服务

在中国企业债务违约频现的情况下,律所也希望以其他方式提供增 值服务,最典型的方法就是通过协

# INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING

While agreeing with Woodworth's observation, Ian Chapman also has a different take on this:" I agree a much higher level of accountability of directors is needed, but I think we also have to be very careful not to get to an over regulated situation which then stifles the entrepreneurial spirit, which is the engine of growth and innovation in Asia. And it's a fine balance."

On the other hand, cross-border factors are driving the development of the legal system. "The ultimate objective of cross-border insolvency is to have a global system. Specifically in Hong Kong and the Mainland we are seeing increasing judicial collaboration in terms of our systems meshing with cross recognition. You're seeing Hong Kong arbitration recognition and how this assists on the Mainland in terms of asset preservation orders and the like. And we are seeing very encouraging developments in terms of how the Mainland is in a way driving it. Economics will drive the system," says Chapman.

With a focus on getting positive results, Allen & Overy calls this practice its Restructuring and Recovery Group, "because that's what our goal is. It's a double play on words, but our primary goal is to rehabilitate, to save jobs, and to get the best result for all stakeholders, without destroying businesses. Ironically, the best recoveries are the ones that the market never hears about," says Chapman.

# **LOOKING AHEAD**

Tiantong, Allbright and Allen & Overy all say that they are ready to expand their teams in expectations of a steady increase in restructuring business over the next one to two years.

Tiantong plans to expand its restructuring team to 40 members. "As the Bankruptcy Law is applied, the professional requirements for bankruptcy lawyers will increase, especially for administrators. We are also seeing more cases in which the administrators are sued for default in the performance. In addition, bankruptcy lawyers are required to integrate resources and coordinate better. They need to fully understand what the creditors need in order to provide a solution," Chi says.

Allbright is also enhancing its competitiveness. Zhu tells *ALB* that the law firm's headquarters in Shanghai are one of the first-tier administrators designated by Shanghai High People's Court to handle corporate bankruptcy cases. Fifteen offices of the law firm are qualified as bankruptcy administrators. Allbright has also established a bankruptcy restructuring and liquidation committee convened by Zhu that manages over 300 bankruptcy legal professionals, and it plans to expand its team in the next two years.

Allen & Overy continues to build its restructuring strengths in Asia. "We have the hub in Hong Kong. We have dedicated resources in Singapore and Jakarta, and at the beginning of this year we have announced our joint operation

with Shanghai Lang Yue Law Firm, as approved by the Shanghai Bureau of Justice. Through this Joint Operation, we are able to offer our clients service in relation to PRC law. Over the past 12 months our regional restructuring team has doubled in size," says Chapman.

"Jane Jiang, a partner in our Shanghai office is actually a founder member of the INSOL Asia committee driving regional development and cross border cooperation in the insolvency space. But there were limitations on the client service that we could offer. In particular, Allen & Overy cannot litigate for clients. In contrast, Allen & Overy working together with Lang Yue will give the clients the full service that they need across all aspects of restructuring and recovery matters," Woodworth adds.

# State-owned borrower infuriates investors with sharp haircuts

**(Reuters)** - An attempt to restructure three dollar bonds by China's Qinghai Provincial Investment Group that will pay bond holders only 40 cents on the dollar is "wickedly designed," investors have said.

Recently, a subsidiary of Qinghai Provincial Investment and Development Co - which, like QPIG, is controlled by Qinghai's local government - proposed buying the \$850 million worth of bonds at a sharp discount.

Guozhen International Trade Consulting, a unit of QPID, offered to buy \$300 million of QPIG bonds due 2020 at 41.19 percent of face value. In addition, Guozhen offered to buy two batches of bonds due 2021 worth a total of \$550 million at 36.75 percent of face value.

Du Ying, director of QPID, said on a conference call that if bond investors chose not to accept the offer, their chances of getting money back were slim, because the issuer "is in a difficult operational situation" and the bonds are unsecured.

"This is cheating. This is arbitrage. This practice is extremely wicked, and shameless," an enraged investor said during the conference call. His call was cut off by the operator.

Another investor raised the same issue, saying the offer involves conflicts of interest, and is "wickedly structured."

"The whole structure is an act of arbitrage. You're definitely not a white knight. You're a black knight," the investor told the QPID managers. "You're using financial tricks to harm bond investors. This is damaging capital markets order."

Du declined to answer the questions directly. He said only that the two companies were unrelated and that QPIG, the bond issuer, is struggling and suffering from liquidity shortage. The conference call was cut short.

The tender offer for QPIG bonds follows the pattern of debt restructuring of another state-owned company, Tewoo Group, in late November.

调债权人和企业尽早展开对话,避 免灾难性后果的发生。

韦国俊告诉ALB,他们确实代 表过不少提前介入的案例,在这些 案例中债权人主动敦促债务企业采 取行动。他详述了A&O曾代表的一 宗案例,"该案例涉及一家知名中国 企业集团,债权人发现该集团有可 能会陷入财务困境,因此迅速组织 成立债权人委员会,以负责安排相 关事宜,对债务企业施压并敦促债 务企业与债权人委员会合作寻求解 决方案。最终成功使债务人从多个 贷款人处获得再融资、贷款人也同 意不终止借贷关系。"

但他也同时指出:"中国内地 和香港存在一个重要难点,当债务 企业拒绝配合承认和解决现有问题 时,债权人要协调规划出解决方案 就会极其困难。在其他国家和地 区,未及时寻求协助的董事会成员 将可能面临潜在的法律义务,因 而更容易尽早发现公司问题.但中 国内地和香港目前这方面的立法较 弱。这意味着,董事们能够一直将 公司问题拖延下去,而银行只有在 爆点后才能真正参与进来。"

卓文同意韦国俊的上述观点, 他表示"董事需要承担更多的责任", 但他同时也提出:"我们也应采取更 为谨慎的态度,法律环境不能过度 严苛,否则会遏制企业家精神,亚 洲国家不断发展和创新的动力正是 源自于这种精神。因此需要在这两 者之间把握好平衡。"

与此同时,跨境因素也正推 动着法律制度进一步发展。卓文表 示:"跨境破产案件最终将把全球 各体系引向一体化。例如,我们看 到,尤其在中国内地和香港之间, 不同法律制度下司法协助日趋密 切。中国内地承认香港仲裁裁决, 还可以协助在内地执行财产保全措 施和其他类似措施。中国政府正在 大力促进司法体系之间的融合,这 是令人鼓舞的发展。经济的发展必 将驱动法律体系的变化。'

着眼于取得建设性成果,A&O 将该业务组命名为"债务重组和追收 业务组"。"债务重组和追收是我们 期望的目标,因此我们在业务名称 上采用同义词叠用的方式,但我们 的首要目标是恢复企业运营、保护 就业、在保留企业的前提下为所有 相关利益者争取最好的结果。"卓文 说,"说来讽刺,最好的重组应该是 你在市场上从来没听说过的那类重

# 预期未来

三家受访律所都表示:预期在未来的 一到两年中,债务重组业务会稳步增 加,他们也都准备好了扩充队伍。

天同计划在两三年内将破产重 组团队扩大到40人以上,池伟宏律 师同时指出:"随着《破产法》的普 及,客户对于破产律师的专业要求 越来越高,特别是对管理人的要求 会更高,现在市场上也频现起诉管 理人违法履行责任的案例:此外, 对破产律师的资源整合及协调能力 也提出了更高要求,破产律师需要 充分了解债权人诉求,提供可行的 解决方案。'

锦天城也在不断增强这方面的 实力。朱林海律师告诉ALB,锦天 城上海总部是上海高院指定的10 家企业破产案件一级管理人之一、 此外,律所在全国还有十五家分所 具有破产管理人资格。他们还在所 内成立了破产重整与清算专业委员 会,由朱律师担任总召集人,统筹 全国三百多位从事破产业务的执业 律师等人员,并计划在未来两年内 继续扩大团队。

A&O正不断在亚洲大力发展 重组业务能力。"我们以香港办公 室为中心,在新加坡和雅加达也配 备专业团队。我们在今年年初获得 了上海市司法局的批准,在上海自 贸区内与上海朗悦律师事务所展开 联营。通过联营,我们可以向客户 提供中国法律服务。过去12个月, 我们亚洲地区的团队规模扩展了一 倍。"卓文说道。

"本所上海办公室合伙人姜颖律 师是国际破产协会亚洲区总部创始 会员,国际破产协会亚洲区总部致 力于促进亚洲地区的发展和破产领 域的跨境协作。但是此前我们因为 无法在中国法下从事诉讼业务,也 感受到了限制,和朗悦的联营恰好 补齐了这一缺口。现在我们能够提 供全方位的服务,可以为客户处理 债务重组和追收项目涉及的所有事 务。"韦国俊补充道。

# 国有债务人激怒投资者

【路透社】青海省投资集团有限公司的三支美元债面临重整,而其 重整计划激怒了债券持有者。

最近,由青海省政府控制的青海省投资集团下属子公司提出以 极大折扣购买其价值8.5亿美元的债券。

青海省投下属的这家离岸子公司国臻国际贸易有限公司提出以 3亿美元价格购买青海省投将于2020年到期的债券——此价格仅为 发行价的41.19%。此外,国臻国际还提议以5.5亿美元购买另外两 支将于2021年到期的债券,此价格为发行价的36.75%。

青海省投表示,如果投资者不接受此邀约,他们拿回投资的机 会就很渺茫,因为发行人"正陷于困难的运转境地之中",对于偿还 债券没有信心。

"这就是诈骗。是套利。这么做太邪恶,也太不知羞耻了。"一 位愤怒的投资人在持有人电话会议上大发脾气。后来他的通话被强 行切断了。

另一位投资人也提出了同样质疑,认为这项邀约存在利益冲 突,"充满恶意"。

"重整的整个设计都是为了套利。"该投资人告诉青海省投的经 "你们在用金融手段谎骗投资人。这是在破坏资本市场交易秩

持有人会议组织者拒绝直接回答问题。他仅仅指出两家公司不 存在关联,青海省投作为发行人已经面临资金短缺。会议随后匆匆 结束。

2019年11月,天物集团也曾提出以类似方式重整其无力偿还的 债券。

# 更顺畅的道路

As the mammoth Belt and Road initiative touches some 70 countries, complex commercial disputes cannot be avoided. But while the opportunities may come with risks, lawyers in Asia say there are a variety of measures companies can employ to help protect themselves and their business interests. BY ELIZABETH BEATTIE

It's been more than six years since the PRC's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) kicked off, but it seems that interest has yet to fade. In January this year, the New York Times reported that Chinese companies had signed Belt and Road contracts worth close to \$128 billion last year – an increase of more than 40 percent compared to 2018.

But not everything has gone smoothly. In more recent years, political tensions and concerns around debt imbalance have complicated matters. For businesses too, there is a rising risk of disputes as complex projects stretch across multiple jurisdictions. And lawyers say that unless you're properly protected, you're playing with fire.

# **PREPARATION IS KEY**

Nils Eliasson, an international arbitration partner at Shearman & Sterling, outlines that many of the Belt and Road projects are ambitious "high-value and technically challenging projects involving complex financial, political and legal considerations, particularly since many of the Belt and Road countries lack political and financial stability."

By way of example, only two out of the top 12 recipients of Belt and Road investments are classified as Tier-1 jurisdictions for "safe" investment, Eliasson says, citing a study commissioned by the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce.

Given such a risky backdrop, he advises that companies seek to protect

themselves from the outset of the project "during the contract negotiation stage," negotiating contractual safeguards, "such as express limits on financial liability and an appropriate mechanism for resolving disputes," he advises, noting that "Companies should also consider structuring their involvement in Belt and Road projects to benefit from any available bilateral and multilateral investment treaty protections."

But the preparation doesn't end there, he warns. "Companies should also exercise effective contract management throughout the lifetime of the project, including by adhering closely to contractual requirements and maintaining comprehensive documentary records. Effective contract management is key

to reducing the risk of disputes and to increase the likelihood of success where disputes cannot be avoided."

Mahesh Rai, a director at Drew & Napier, agrees that there are precautions that companies can take to protect themselves over the course of the project. "Companies should carefully provide for contractual mechanisms to monitor and manage any changes which have time and cost impact on the infrastructure project. They should also have provisions to address disputes in the course of the project early on. Employers, in particular, should include provisions requiring timely notice of claims for extra payment and extensions of time to be made to the contract administrator to ensure that they are not taken by surprise by such claims later on," says Rai.

# PRIORITISE THE PAPERWORK

When it comes to the preparation side of disputes, John Choong, partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer puts it simply: It's always better to avoid a dispute than to prepare for one. And, given the complexity of agreements that may arise along the way, Choong advises taking a bird's eye view, and scrutinising the entire process carefully.

"At the contract drafting stage, it is important to pay close attention to the language used in the contract. The golden rule is that words will be given their natural and ordinary meaning and you do not wish to have a dispute over interpretation. Companies should also think through the life of the contract under various fact patterns to ensure that the contract is sufficiently detailed to provide certainty in different scenarios - such as if a dispute were to arise," he advises.

Meticulous record-keeping is also necessary Choong says. Additionally, keeping "contemporaneous evidence that is, evidence recorded at the time of or in the immediate aftermath of an event," is key.

"In the eyes of the courts and tribunals, evidence created long after the event (especially after a dispute has arisen) will be given less weight than contemporaneous evidence, due to a perception that parties may be engaging

到目前为止,已经有近70个国家加入了"一带一路"倡议 这一庞大工程,复杂的商业纠纷因此不可避免。虽然机 遇可能伴随着风险,但亚洲的律师们表示,企业可以采 取多种措施来保护自己以及自己的商业利益。

# BY ELIZABETH BEATTIE

规模宏大的"一带一路"倡议启 动至今已有六年多,但人们对此的兴 趣似乎并未消退。2020年一月、《 纽约时报》报道称,中国企业2019 年签署了价值近1280亿美元的"一带 一路"合同,与2018年相比增长了 40%以上。

但并非一切都进展顺利。最近 几年,政治紧张局势以及对债务失衡 的担忧使情况变得相当复杂。对于企 业而言,随着跨多个司法管辖区的复 杂项目逐渐增多,纠纷风险也不断增 加。律师们表示,除非得到适当的保 护,否则就是在玩火。

# 做好准备很关键

谢尔曼•思特灵律师事务所的国际 仲裁业务合伙人Nils Eliasson总结 道,"一带一路"的许多项目都是雄心 勃勃的"高价值且具有技术挑战性的 项目,涉及复杂的金融、政治和法律 因素,尤其是许多'一带一路'沿线国 家的政治和金融体系缺乏稳定性"。

Eliasson援引了上海市商务委员 会委托进行的一项研究,研究称,在 位列前12名的接受"一带一路"投资国 家中,仅有两个国家被列为投资"安 全"的一级司法管辖区。

鉴于这样的风险背景,他建 议企业从项目一开始就寻求自我保 护,"在合同谈判阶段"谈判好合同保 障措施,"例如明确的财务责任限制 和解决纠纷的适当机制";他指出"企 业还应考虑安排其参与'一带一路'项 目的结构,以便从任何现有的双边和 多边投资条约保护中获益。

但准备工作并非仅此而已。他 提醒,"企业还应在项目的整个生命 周期内实行有效的合同管理,包括严 格遵守合同要求并保存全面的文件记 录。有效的合同管理是减少纠纷风险 以及在无法避免纠纷的情况下增加胜 算的关键。"

德 尊 (新加坡)律师事务所 的一位负责人Mahesh Rai同意 Eliasson的看法,他表示,在项目过 程中,企业可以采取一些预防措施来 保护自己。"企业应认真规定合同机 制,监测和管理对基础设施项目造成 时间和成本影响的任何变化;他们还 应该就如何尽早解决项目过程中的纠 纷作出规定;尤其是雇主,应该在合 同中包含要求及时向合同管理人发出 额外付款和延期索赔通知的条款,以 确保以后不会因为此类索赔而感到意

# 优先处理案头工作

关于争议的准备,富而德律师事务所 的合伙人钟津翰表示,简而言之就 是,与其为争议做好准备,不如避免 发生争议。鉴于协议过程中可能会出 现的复杂状况,钟律师建议全方位仔 细审视整个过程。

"在合同起草阶段,必须特别注 意合同中语言的使用。黄金法则是使 用词语本身自然、普通的含义,因为 你不希望在词语解释上产生争议。企 业还应该考虑各种实景模式下的合同 有效期,以确保合同条款规定足够详 尽,可以在不同情况下(例如是否 会产生纠纷)提供确定性。"他建议 道。

钟律师说,认真记录也很有必 要。此外,保存"同时期证据——即 在事件发生时或事件发生后立即记录 的证据",这点十分关键。

"在法院和法庭看来,基于认为 当事各方可能会故作姿态,因此认 为同时期证据比在事件发生很久之 后(尤其是在发生争议之后)提出 的证据有更大的证据力:所以如果可 能的话,企业应该定期保存同时期记 录。"他建议说。

钟律师还说,争议解决条款 是非常重要但"有时会被忽略"的条 款。"我们建议客户慎重起草争议解 决条款,以便保护自己。合同能否成 为有效保护当事人权益的工具取决于 其争议解决条款。

印度尼西亚律师事务所Parulian Situmorang & Partners的合伙人

# DISPUTES

in posturing. If possible, companies should maintain contemporaneous records as a regular practice," he advises.

The dispute resolution clause is also a highly significant "sometimes overlooked" provision, says Choong. "We advise our clients to draft the dispute resolution clause thoughtfully, to protect themselves. A contract is only as strong as its dispute resolution clause – it provides the tools to protect the parties' rights and interests, should a dispute arise."

Disputes aren't only challenging for companies, they can also serve as something of a death-blow for projects, says Ellrico Situmorang, partner at Indonesian law firm Parulian Situmorang & Partners.

"Disputes is something that infrastructure businesses really want to avoid, especially during the construction process. In many cases we have seen projects being abandoned or not being taken care of, because there is a running dispute between the stakeholders or between the parties involved in the process of the project," he says.

Preparation is highly important, notes Situmorang, but there are also other strategies to consider. "There are many ways that parties can avoid disputes. In my experience, they need to be open from the very beginning of the process – that's important. If necessary, the parties can create an ad hoc mechanism to settle the differences among them, regardless of the size, before they can put their dispute to an open litigation," he says, noting that a collaborative mindset and good communication can help smooth the way.

# **CONSIDER CLIENTS' NEEDS**

Given the likelihood of increasingly complex disputes on the horizon, lawyers advise developing close client relationships in order to ensure adequate risk assessments are carried out. "From the outset of an infrastructure project, we will work closely with our clients to ensure that the specific legal, financial and political risks associated with the project are comprehensively addressed in the contract," says Eliasson.

In cases where the client is a

contractor, the team will also consider how projects can be structured to benefit from investment treaty protections. "The combination of contractual and investment treaty safeguards offers powerful protections for resolving disputes," Eliasson adds.

But there are other factors to consider too. Eliasson warns that companies must always ensure that contracts contain effective dispute resolution clauses "such as arbitration under a recognized set of arbitral rules in an arbitration-friendly jurisdiction (e.g. arbitration under the HKIAC Rules in Hong Kong), as this is the mechanism through which the terms of the contract are enforced. The contract should also comprehensively allocate risk between the parties, including through express limitations and caps on liability, the availability of hardship and force majeure, and termination and suspension provisions."

Rai tells Asian Legal Business that sometimes it's not just about preparing clients for conflicts, sometimes his team join the process once a dispute has already begun. "If clients come to us early enough, we prepare clients for potential disputes by making sure that the necessary documentation of the issues in dispute is in place. The clients are in a better position after consulting us as we assist with giving an assessment of the merits of their claims and defences, as well as advising them on how best to address areas which may give rise to disputes. This not only helps the client to best prepare its case for eventual dispute resolution proceedings, but there is often an element of dispute avoidance in our advice relating to how to sidestep potential pitfalls and avoid a dispute arising," he says.

Additionally, for projects worth more than \$\$500 million (\$370 million) in value, Rai notes that parties can consider incorporating the Singapore Infrastructure Dispute-Management Protocol (SIDP) in their contract.

"This would provide for a 'standing' Dispute Board (i.e. to be engaged at the start of a project and which will remain in place for its duration). Dispute Boards have been used as a method of avoiding and resolving disputes in the

infrastructure sector for over forty years. Such Dispute Boards are made up of neutral individuals whose role is to assist with the swift and cost-effective avoidance and resolution of disputes without the need to resort to more expensive and time-consuming arbitration or litigation," he says.

Prawidha Murti, a partner in the dispute resolution practice of Indonesia's Oentoeng Suria & Partners, which operates in association with Ashurst, tells Asian Legal Business that "whilst you can never insulate yourself against every risk of disputes, setting out the most comprehensive clauses on every foreseeable risk is the best way to protect businesses should a dispute arise. Hopefully, this will mean all parties will be prepared with sufficient certainty to determine the right actions to take moving forward, minimizing the need for formal dispute settlement processes," she says. But while protections are highly important, designing negotiation and/or mediation within the dispute settlement clause, helps to ensure that disputes can be settled "quickly and amicably in line with the business interests of the parties."

# **SEND IN THE LAWYERS**

While preparation certainly helps smooth the way, there's no substitute for having the law on your side from the very beginning. Seeking legal advice from the get-go helps outline challenges sooner and proceed in the right way, say lawyers.

"It is extremely important to involve lawyers – internal or external – at an earlier stage of a dispute," says Choong. "This may include engaging a team of international disputes lawyers who can provide legal and strategic advice, including utilising procedural tools in multiple jurisdictions where necessary. They can also provide advice on selecting suitable arbitrators and experts."

His team also work to prepare their clients by training their in-house lawyers on managing disputes, Choong notes, adding that "In-house lawyers play a critical role in facilitating communication between the external lawyers and the business team, and in helping our clients put their best foot forward."

Legal guidance for the business team is also highly important according to Choong, but something that is "often overlooked." "The business team has first-hand involvement in the day-today operations of a company, and it is extremely useful to ensure that they can identify early signs of a dispute and know how to deal with them properly. As mentioned earlier, it is important to develop a practice of keeping contemporaneous records throughout the life cycle of the project. The business team plays a key role in providing factual input in that context," he says.

#### **ARBITRATION RISING**

When it comes to resolving disputes, the epic rise of arbitration cannot be underplayed. Recent developments have also reinforced the strength of the Asia market as a hub for this - the signing of the Singapore Convention on Mediation in 2019, while a recent agreement between authorities in Mainland China and Hong Kong that enables Chinese courts to grant interim measures in support of arbitrations seated in Hong Kong, has also been praised.

Indonesian firm Kudri & Djamaris say that arbitration has been acknowledged as "a more favourable approach than litigation especially in area of international commerce contract's dispute, partly because its perceived advantages felt by the disputing parties."

"Its wide array of advantages such as, but are not limited to, its nature of confidentiality, procedural flexibility, time efficiency and arbiter's area of expertise conclude its benefit that litigation cannot offer. We believe that arbitration is and has been the best suitable option and we feel that it will stay as the most favourable option as the main approach of dispute resolution," they say.

They also add that mediation is likely to rise in popularity in the future "especially in relation with dispute in the BRI's related infrastructure project." "This prediction comes from the understanding that mediation could provide a friendlier approach for dispute resolution for the contracting party without a potential of damaging the business relationship," they say.

Ellrico Situmorang说,争议不仅对 企业具有挑战性,还可能对项目构成 致命打击。

"基础设施企业非常希望能够避 免争议的发生,尤其是在施工过程 中。很多时候,我们看到项目被弃置 或者搁浅,就是因为在项目过程中利 益相关方之间或项目参与各方之间存 在着不断的争议。"他说。

Situmorang指出,做好准备非 常重要,但还需要考虑其他策略。他 说:"当事人可以通过多种方式避免 纠纷。以我的经验,他们需要从一开 始就持开放的态度,这很重要。必 要时,合同各方可以建立一个临时机 制,以解决各方之间的分歧——不论 规模大小,然后再考虑将争议提交公 开诉讼。"他随后又补充道,合作的 心态和良好的沟通也可以帮助解决争

# 考虑客户需求

鉴于潜在的纠纷可能会越来越复 杂,律师们建议与客户建立紧密的 关系,以确保进行充分的风险评 估。Eliasson说:"从基础设施项目 一开始,我们就与客户密切合作,确 保在合同中全方位解决与项目相关的 具体法律、财务和政治风险。

如果客户是承包商,团队还会 考虑如何构建项目以便从投资条约保 障措施中受益。Eliasson补充说:' 结合利用合同与投资条约保障措施能 够为解决争议提供强有力的保障。

但还有其他一些因素需要考 虑。Eliasson提醒企业必须始终确 保合同中包含有效的争议解决条 款,例如"在对仲裁友好的司法管辖 区根据公认的一套仲裁规则进行仲 裁,例如,根据香港国际仲裁中心 (HKIAC)规则进行仲裁,因为可 以通过这种机制履行合同条款。合 同还应在各方之间全面分配风险,包 括:明确责任限制和上限,困难和不 可抗力条款的可用性,以及合同终止 和中止条款。

Rai告诉ALB,有时不仅要帮助 客户做好准备以应对冲突,他的团队 在争议开始后也会加入进来。"如果 客户能够尽早找到我们,我们就能够 帮助他们做好准备应对争议,包括确 保已经准备好与争议问题相关的必要 文件。咨询我们之后,客户将处于更 好的位置,因为我们协助评估他们的 主张和辩护的优势和劣势,并就如何 以最佳的方式处理可能引起争议的领 域提供建议。这不仅可以帮助客户为 最终的争议解决程序做好充分准备 我们的建议中还通常包含避免纠纷的 内容,即:如何避开潜在的陷阱并避 免发生纠纷。"

Rai还指出,对于价值超过5亿 新元(3.7亿美元)的项目,各方可 以考虑在其合同中纳入《新加坡基础 设施争议管理议定书》(SIDP)。

"根据该《议定书》,设立一个' 常设'争议委员会(即在项目开始时 就参与,并将在整个项目期间保持不 变)。四十多年来,争议委员会一直 被用作避免和解决基础设施领域争 议的方法。此类争议委员会由中立 人士组成,他们的职责是协助迅速、 经济有效地避免和解决争议,而无需 将争议诉诸更昂贵、耗时的仲裁或诉 讼。"Rai说。

Oentoeng Suria & Partners是 与亚司特律师事务所联营的印度尼西 亚律所,该所律师Prawidha Murti告 诉ALB: "虽然不可能永远避免各种 纠纷风险,针对每种可预见的风险制 定最全面的条款是发生纠纷时保护企 业的最佳方式。我们希望所有各方都 有足够的把握来决定采取正确的行动 推进项目,从而最大程度地减少正式 争议解决程序的需求。"

保护措施非常重要的同时,在 争议解决条款中规定恰当的谈判、调 解方式也将有助干确保能够"根据各 方的商业利益,迅速而友好地解决争 议"。

# 让律师参与其中

虽然良好的准备工作有助于推动项目 顺利进展,但更需要从一开始就寻求 法律的支持,这一点是无可替代的。 律师们表示,在项目起步阶段寻求法 律建议有助于更快地发现挑战,同时 以正确的方式应对。

"在争议的早期阶段就让内部 或外部的律师参与进来是非常重要 的。"钟律师说,"这可能包括聘请国 际争议律师团队,他们可以提供法律 和战略建议,包括在必要时在多个司 法管辖区使用程序工具。他们还可以 就选择合适的仲裁员和专家提供咨询 建议。

钟律师表示,他的团队通过培 训内部律师处理纠纷来帮助客户做好 准备工作,并补充说:"内部律师的 作用至关重要,他们能够促进外部律 师与业务团队之间的沟通,并帮助客 户的项目获得良好开局。'

# DISPUTES

Murti informs Asian Legal Business that most cross-border businesses and transactions in Southeast Asia are typically carried out with arbitration as their dispute resolution mechanism, in part due to its international enforcement capability.

"The most famous arbitrationfriendly countries being Singapore and the Hong Kong SAR due to its proximity to Southeast Asian region. Both countries are frequently the venue of choice for arbitration given their geographic convenience and the fact that each of them hosts one of the most prominent arbitration institutions in the world (SIAC and HKIAC), along with their respective world-class lists of arbitrators," she says.

But looking forward, she also predicts there may be further developments in the arbitration scene in the future. "We believe the demand for arbitration will remain high in Southeast Asian countries, including because of the Belt and Road Initiatives enhancing the number, size, and variety of new cross-border projects and transactions. With more demand for arbitration in the market, certainly arbitration institutions will consistently update their arbitration rules, and enhance the quality of service, facility, and the standard of their arbitrators."

Eliasson agrees that well-drafted contracts in Asia "frequently identify arbitration as the preferred method of resolving infrastructure disputes." "This is a sensible choice given the neutral forum that arbitration offers for resolving disputes as well as the comprehensive international framework that exists under the New York Convention for enforcing arbitral awards in 161 states, including most Belt and Road countries. It is also common to see parties agreeing to a "tiered approach" to dispute resolution, with negotiation, expert-determination or mediation as the initial form of dispute resolution followed by arbitration if the dispute has not been resolved. In a cross-border context, including in infrastructure projects, arbitration is preferable to relying on local courts, which can be unreliable and slow depending upon the particular jurisdiction."

"Where a company's involvement in

an infrastructure project has been negatively impacted by a state or state-owned entity in the country where the infrastructure project is located, the Company may also be able to rely upon an investment treaty to initiate arbitration proceedings directly against the host state. Investment treaty arbitration can offer a powerful mechanism for obtaining redress in infrastructure projects."

Situmorang at Parulian Situmorang & Partners weighs in, commenting that while arbitration regulation is relatively new in Southeast Asia, it has become quite a trend in dispute resolution in the market. "The parties they need to deeply discuss matters until they come to a dispute agreement," he says, noting that the court process can be somewhat more restrictive.

"In a court setting in Indonesia, judges here usually have more than enough cases at hand and may quite a lot to handle and so many regulations to comprehend. For example, maybe in the morning a judge will be settling a case on family law, in the afternoon they'll be handling civil or commercial litigation, then in the late afternoon, or sometimes evening, they'll discuss and review the case on criminal proceedings," Situmorang says.

He adds: "Therefore I am of the view that [arbitration is a preferable method] especially for commercial or infrastructure disputes, because you need someone that really knows the specific regulations, who has first-hand experience and deep understanding about the area being discussed."

"For arbitrators, you don't have to have a legal degree. You can have a shipping background, a tax background. When we have a dispute regarding a shipping issue, an arbitrator who has a deep knowledge of shipping can be chosen by the parties. Especially for high complexity kind of cases, I think arbitration is a good choice," he says.

# MORE IN THE OFFING

While there is much talk of preparing for the dangers of disputes, the reality is that given the long-term nature of many of the BRI projects, these aren't always forthcoming. Sometimes challenges are buried further down the road, only to emerge years later.

"Infrastructure disputes typically emerge as projects near completion so, as increasing numbers of Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure projects move towards this stage over the coming years, we are likely to see more infrastructure disputes relating to Belt and Road projects," predicts Eliasson, noting that because of the nature of some disputes, these may be resolved at a state-to-state level, as opposed to dispute resolution mechanisms in the underlying contracts.

Choong echoes the belief that disputes are likely to increase over the next few years "as earlier projects are beginning to mature into disagreements and conflicts." Additionally, such conflicts may grow as projects swell in scope. "As the scope of the BRI continues to expand, more parties from different cultures and legal systems with differing expectations are becoming more involved, and this is likely to lead to more disputes in the future," Choong says.

But Murti takes a different stance, telling *Asian Legal Business*: "We believe the extent of disputes per infrastructure business will remain the same in the future, if not decrease."

"Although there will be high demand for infrastructure projects in Southeast Asia because of the Belt and Road Initiative, it also means that there will inevitably be a higher number and value of tenders available in the market. In consequence, both companies and legal counsel will be exposed to dealing with infrastructure projects more often, increasing their experience in this area," she says.

"From there, the trend of using formal dispute process will likely to decrease, as companies and legal counsel grow more familiar with infrastructure businesses and avoid dispute settlement processes by developing strong contracts and settling conflicts amicably. Nevertheless, our belief regarding the stagnant, if not decreasing, number of disputes per infrastructure business will most likely prevail only if companies hire experienced legal counsel expert in the infrastructure and construction field," she warns.

在他看来,为业务团队提供法律指导非常重要,但却"经常被忽常。"业务团队直接参与公司的日常家,确保他们能够识别出纠纷的的早知迹象,并知道如何妥善处理纠纷的的,正如前面所提到的。正项目的整个生命周期中,保存和时期记录的做法是很重要的。在这种情况下,业务团队在提供事实信息方面发挥着关键作用。"

# 仲裁需求增加

在争议解决方面,仲裁的迅猛发展不可低估。最近的发展提升了亚洲市场作为仲裁中心的实力——《新时时,解公约》于2019年签署;同时,《中国内地与香港特别行政区法院亦引起序相互协助保全的安排》,"在香港进行的仲裁程序"中的任何一方声请达了的仲裁程序相关的临时措施。该《安排》受到了广泛好评。

印度尼西亚律师事务所Kudri & Djamaris表示,仲裁被公认为是"比诉讼更为有利的方法,尤其是在国际商务合同争议方面,而这其中有一部分原因就是争议双方感受到了仲裁的优势"。

"其广泛的优势包括但不限于其 保密性,程序灵活性,时间效率以及 仲裁员的专业领域,这些优点总结了 诉讼无法提供的好处。我们认为,仲 裁一直是最合适的选择;仲裁将继续 作为解决争议最有利的选择和主要途 径。"他们说。

他们还补充道,调解可能也将会越来越受欢迎,"特别是在解决与'一带一路'相关基础设施项目中的争议方面。这一预测是基于这样一种理解,即:调解可以为缔约方提供更友好的解决争议方式,不会损害他们之间的业务关系。"他们说。

Murti告诉ALB,东南亚大多数 跨境业务和交易通常以仲裁作为其争 议解决机制,部分原因是其具有国际 执行效力。

"最著名的对仲裁友好的司法管辖区是新加坡和中国香港特别行政区。由于这两个司法管辖区靠近东南亚地区,在地理位置上具有优势;而新加坡国际仲裁中心(SIAC)和香港国际仲裁中心(HKIAC)都是世界上最新的仲裁员,因此这个两个司法管证经常作为仲裁的首选地点。"她说。

展望未来,她预测仲裁领域可能会进一步发展。"我们认为,在东南亚国家,仲裁的需求仍然很高,是因为'一带一路'倡议带来了更多新的跨境项目,也提升扩展了交易的量、规模和种类。随着市场对仲裁的需求增加,仲裁机构无疑将不断更新其仲裁规则,提高服务质量、设施和仲裁标准。"

Eliasson也认为,在亚洲,好的 合同"通常将仲裁确定为解决基础设 施纠纷的首选方法"。"这是一个明智 的选择,因为仲裁为解决争议提供 了中立的论坛,同时《纽约公约》 综合性国际框架下承认与执行外国 仲裁裁决,公约缔约国总数达161 个,其中包括大多数'一带一路'沿线 国家。常见的情况是,当事各方都 同意采用'分级方法'解决争议:首先 以谈判、专家裁决或调解为最初的 争议解决形式,如果争议未能得到 解决,则进行仲裁。在跨境的情况 下,包括在基础设施项目中,仲裁 比依赖当地法院更为可取,因为当 地法院可能不可靠而且处理事务的 速度相当缓慢,具体情况取决于不 同的司法管辖区。"

"如果企业参与的基础设施项目 受到了基础设施项目所在国家或地区 的国有实体的不利影响,那么企业也 可以依靠投资条约直接对东道国提起 仲裁程序。投资条约仲裁可以为基础 设施项目获得补救提供强有力的保障 机制。"他说。

Parulian Situmorang & Partners 的合伙人Situmorang表示,虽然仲裁监管在东南亚相对较新,但已经成为市场上解决争议的一种趋势。他说:"各方在达成争端解决协议之前需要进行深入讨论。"同时指出,法院程序可能更具限制性。

"在印度尼西亚的法院环境中,这里的法官通常手头有足够多的案件,可能还有很多的事情要处理,还需要理解非常多的法规。例如,一位法官可能早上要处理有关家庭法的实件,下午则要处理民事或商业诉讼,然后在下午晚些时候或者有时甚至是晚上,他们还要讨论和审查刑事诉讼案件。"Situmorang说。

"因此我认为,(仲裁是一种首选方法),特别是对于商业或基础设施纠纷,因为你需要一位真正了解具体法规条例的人员,他对所讨论的领域有第一手经验并且有深入的了解。"他补充说。

"对于仲裁员来说,他们不必拥有法律背景。他们可以有运输背景或税务背景等,当我们就运输问题发生争议的时候,当事人可以选择一位对运输有深入了解的仲裁员。特别是对于高度复杂的案件,我认为仲裁是一个很好的选择。"他说。

# 或将出现更多挑战

尽管有很多关于为争议危险做准备的 讨论,但事实是,鉴于许多"一带一 路"项目的长期性,这些问题并不会 马上出现。有的时候,随着项目的进 行,直到几年后挑战才会出现。

Eliasson指出:"基础设施相关的争议通常会随着项目接近完价品现,因此,随着越来越多的'一路'基础设施项目在未来几年,我们很可能会看到的人。"而且由于某些争议的国际,这些争议可能需要在国家与国上解决,而不是依靠基础合同中的争议解决机制。

钟律师对这一观点表示赞同,"随着早期项目开始逐渐演纠结而决",在未来几年内目范围分明,在未来几年内目范围的,在未来几年内目范围的,他们,此类矛盾可能会加剧。他扩大,此类矛盾可能会加剧。他扩大,随着'一带一路'的范围不断别不断,这有可能在未来导致更多的组。"

但Murti对此持不同的看法。她对ALB说:"我们认为,就每项基础设施业务的争议程度而言,即便不会减少,也会保持不变。"

"由于'一带一路'倡议,东南亚对基础设施项目的需求会很高;但这也意味着,市场上的招投标数量和价值将不可避免地增加。因此,企业和法律顾问将有机会更多地接触基础设施项目,从而增加在这一领域的经验。"她说。

"鉴于此,随着企业和法律顾问对基础设施业务越来越熟悉,通过制定强有力的合同和以友好的方式解户,实以避免采用争端解决程序,会不过,我们认为,只有企业富力。不过,我们认为,只有企业富力。如是强强的专家的情况下,我是保持不会减少的预期才有可能普遍发生。"她提醒道。

# ALB CHINA 2020 TOP 15 LITIGATORS

# ALB CHINA 2020 十五佳诉讼律师

China's commercial litigation business has experienced vigorous growth in recent years; and meanwhile Chinese commercial litigation lawyers have enhanced their overall professional competence and global competitiveness through profound accumulation of knowledge and solid experiences.

近些年,中国商事诉讼业务蓬勃增长, 中国商事诉讼律师们在整体专业水准与 全球竞争力上也开始厚积薄发。

BY KRISTEN LIU 作者:刘诗宇

# LAWYER 律师 Law Firm 所属律所

Winners are listed in alphabetical order. 获奖名单按律所名称首字母排序

# CAO FANG 曹放

AllBright Law Offices 锦天城律师事务所

# CHEN FU 陈浮

Commerce & Finance Law Offices 通商律师事务所

# CHEN XIANGYONG 陈向勇

Wang Jing & Co 敬海律师事务所

# GUAN BING 管冰

East & Concord Partners 天达共和律师事务所

# LIU HAIPING 刘海屏

Beijing Dentons Law Offices, LLP 北京大成律师事务所

# LIU HONGHUAN 刘虹环

FenXun Partners 奋迅律师事务所

# LLOYD LYU 吕毅

Guantao Law Firm 观韬中茂律师事务所

# SHI WEIGANG 施伟钢

JunZeJun Law Offices 君泽君律师事务所

# SUN WEI 孙巍

Zhong Lun Law Firm 中伦律师事务所

# WANG JUNQI 王军旗

DeHeng Law Offices 德恒律师事务所

# WANG ZHAO 王钊

JunHe LLP 君合律师事务所

# XIE PENG 谢鹏

Jingtian & Gongcheng 竞天公诚律师事务所

# XU YU 徐羽

Hylands Law Firm 浩天信和律师事务所

# YUN ZHI 云治

King & Wood Mallesons 金杜律师事务所

# ZHOU JINQUAN 周金全

Jincheng Tongda & Neal Law Firm 金诚同达律师事务所

For outstanding litigators, making compelling arguments based on clear facts is their job. The People's Court Daily selected the top ten commercial cases in 2019, which, in comparison with the previous year, involved more industries, larger amounts and more complicated situations, indicating that China's commercial disputes sector poses higher requirements and more severe challenges to litigators.

But we are excited to see that many applicants for ALB China 2020 Top 15 Litigators won favorable results for their clients by virtue of their solid legal skills, proficient industry knowledge, excellent logical reasoning skills, accurate interpretation of cases and highly professional attitude. These qualities enable them to stand out and win cases for clients even in unfavorable conditions. These lawyers are both legal experts and industry experts with the craftsmanship spirit. They have comprehensive understanding of the laws and regulations and their legislative intents, pay close attention to the industry's cutting-edge trends, and constantly update and expand their "knowledge base". We have now selected the winners of ALB China Top 15 Litigators this year.

# **OVERVIEW**

Most of the winners on the list this year have about 20 years of working experience in the field of dispute resolution, practicing in the areas of maritime, foreign dispute resolution, international trade, energy and offshore engineering, insurance finance, intellectual property, private funds, and venture capital. They not only provide clients with high-quality legal services, but also play an important role in promoting the development of China's commercial dispute resolution industry and accelerating the process of rule of law in China.

In addition to serving as lawyers, many of them have experiences of working at procuratorates, courts, or arbitration organizations, or serving as general counsels, which enable them to think from multiple perspectives when handling cases, have more accurate and comprehensive

# **METHODOLOGY**

For this year's list of ALB China Top 15 Litigators, the selection committee conducted detailed analysis and evaluation of the candidates' litigation work in 2019 primarily by assessing the following two aspects and relying on third-party recognition:

- 1. Typical cases provided by lawyers that showcase their achievements in 2019; and
- 2. Cases which lawyers participated in and for which judgments were pronounced in 2018, the information of which is available through public channels. The criteria for assessing objective information in these two aspects include, among others:
  - a. Difficulty of cases
  - b. Litigation strategies employed by lawyers
  - c. Influence of cases
  - d. Innovative nature of cases

# 评选方法:

在本次的ALB China十五佳诉讼律师的评选中,评委会主要参考以下两个方面的内容,并引入第 三方的认可情况,对报名者在2019的诉讼成就进行了详细的解析、评价:

- 1. 律师提供的可代表其2019 年工作成就的典型案件:
- 公开渠道可获取的该律师参与的裁判案例。该两方面客观信息内容的评选标准包含但不限于以下几个方面:
  - a. 案件难易程度
  - b. 律师诉讼策略
  - c. 案件影响力
  - d. 创新性

understanding of the cases and serve clients better in dispute resolution. They are also actively engaged in academia: Chen Fu, a partner at Commerce & Finance Law Offices, serves as a tutor of the Law School of Beijing Jiaotong University and an off-campus tutor

站在事实的肩膀上雄辩是诉 讼律师们的战斗日常,而"事实的肩 膀"能有多高,则考验着诉讼律师们 对案件诸多细节精准的把握能力。 在过去的一年中,《人民法院报》 编辑部评选出了2019年度人民法院 十大商事案件,与往年相比,涉及 行业更广、金额更大,且案情更加 复杂,预示着中国商事争议解决行 业对诉讼律师的要求越来越高、挑 战愈加严峻。但令人欣喜的是,在 ALB收到的2020年ALB China十五 佳诉讼律师申报表格中,我们看到 一位又一位诉讼律师凭借扎实的法 律基本功、丰富的行业知识、严密 的逻辑思考、细节化的案情解读和 高度专业的态度赢得了有利于客户 的诉讼结果,多次在原本不利的情 况下力挽狂澜,反败为胜。这些律 师既是法律专家,又是行业能手 充分理解法律法规及其立法意图的 同时紧密关注着行业前沿动态,秉 承着深耕细作、精益求精的匠人精 神,不断更新和扩充自身的"知识 库",走在行业最前端。我们在这些 杰出的诉讼律师中评选出了2020年 ALB China十五佳诉讼律师。

# 概况

今年上榜的15位诉讼律师们大多具 有20年左右的从业经历,其争议解 决领域包括海事海商、涉外争议解 决、国际贸易、能源及离岸工程、 保险金融、知识产权、私募基金、 风险投资等。他们丰富的经验不仅 使他们在多元化的争议解决领域中 游刃有余,为客户提供优质法律服 务,还让他们成为中国商事争议解 决行业发展的推动者,加快了中国 的法治建设进程。除了担任律师 他们中还有很多人具有检察院/法 院、仲裁组织和法务的工作经验 这使得他们在参与案件的过程中能 够站在多角度进行思考,对案情矛 盾点的把握更加准确和全面,有效 抓住并利用更多细节,为客户更好 地解决争议和纠纷。同时,这些杰 出的诉讼律师们还积极地投身学 术,例如,北京市通商律师事务所 的陈浮律师担任北京交通大学法学 院联合导师和对外经济贸易大学硕 士生校外导师;观韬中茂律师事务 所的吕毅律师曾担任华东政法大学 硕士生指导教师和同济大学公共管 理硕士(专业学位)校外导师:德 恒上海律师事务所的王军旗律师担

# **COVER STORY**

"We usually work in teams according to division of responsibilities and give full play to the capabilities of different lawyers, thereby accomplishing the task at an expedited pace."

"我们通常是团队作战,按照已经比较成熟的工作机制分工合作, 充分发挥多位律师的聪明才智、能力与经验,一鼓作气完成任务。"

- Chen Fu, Commerce & Finance Law Offices 陈浮, 通商律师事务所

for master's degree students of the University of International Business and Economics; Lloyd Lyu, a partner at Guantao Law Firm, once served as a master's degree tutor of East China University of Political Science and Law and an off-campus tutor of master's degree program of public administration of Tongji University; and Wang Jungi, a partner at DeHeng Law Offices, serves as a master's degree tutor at Fudan University. By doing so, they train the new-generation litigators by virtue of their rich practice experience and academic accomplishments. Additionally, the winners also actively participate in charitable activities. These outstanding lawyers not only demonstrate excellence in their work but also show great commitments to the social development. We want to congratulate them for their great achievements over the last year and praise them for their strong sense of social responsibilities.

We interviewed some of the lawyers on the list this year to find out the key to their success, and to hear their understanding of the legal profession, their advice to enterprises and their outlook on the industry.

# **PROFESSIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

Wang Zhao, a partner at JunHe, believes that the most important quality for litigators is "remaining calm in all circumstances and not always being competitive and feisty." Litigation involves many confrontations, but its ultimate goal is to resolve disputes and meanwhile to maximize the legitimate benefits for clients. The core of litigation is

protecting and maximizing the interests of clients rather than competing with the opponents. Wang Zhao's professional philosophy is "to be a professional and speak professionally." Legal professionals must respect the laws and rules when practicing law, and should always stay in control of the case, make arguments based on logic and give advice based on facts, Wang Zhao says.

Xu Yu, a partner at Hylands Law Firm, says that litigators must have a clear position and viewpoint, be proficient in a certain field, have excellent social skills and be eloquent, and have very good common sense. Xu's professional philosophy is "the ultimate goal of litigation is to convince the judge."

"In legal proceedings, it's essential for lawyers to convince the judge to support their claims to the greatest extent," he says. "Plaintiffs bring charges against defendants and try to demonstrate the legality of their charges, and defendants try to deny the charges or the legality of the charge. Our job is to help our clients go through the numerous facts to find grounds supporting their claims, and then convince the judge."

# **WISER WAYS**

When it comes to "big challenges facing litigators," Xie Peng, a partner at Jingtian & Gongcheng, says that since the clients are from various industries and backgrounds, litigators are exposed to all aspects of society and industries, the development and evolution of which keep bringing new types of legal disputes, but some of those disputes are

任复旦大学法律硕士实务导师。他 们凭借自身的丰富执业经验和学术 造诣,悉心培养着新一代的诉讼律 师。在法律援助等慈善活动方面 今年获奖的诉讼律师们也成果斐 然,充分体现了杰出优秀的诉讼律 师们专业素养与人文关怀兼具,在 职业的舞台上发光,在社会的角落 里发热。旁人眼中是针尖之舞般的 难题,在这些杰出的诉讼律师应对 起来却游刃有余。我们惊叹于他们 在法庭上逆转不利局势的凯旋之 姿,也好奇他们成功背后的制胜关 键。我们采访了部分上榜律师,聆 听他们分享对职业的理解、对企业 的建议和对行业的展望。

# 职业哲学

君合律师事务所王钊律师认为,对 诉讼律师来说,最重要的品质和精 神是"心态平和、不争强好胜"。诉 讼尽管是一个对抗性很强的业务 但诉讼最终的目的是要解决争议 为客户争取最大程度的合法利益 所以,诉讼律师的工作核心也应当 围绕着这样的目的,维护和争取客 户的利益,而不是非要和对手一争 胜负、分出高低上下。王钊律师的 职业哲学是"作专业的人,说专业的 话"。他认为作为法律人,在执业中 要敬畏法律和规则,要言之有理、 言之有据;针对非自己专业领域问 ,要么去请教专业的人,要么去 学习和研究该专业问题,而不是凭 感觉或者直觉去提供专业意见。

浩天信和律师事务所徐羽律师 表示,作为诉讼律师,首先要具有 鲜明的立场和观点;其次要具有在 某个领域非常专业的知识水平;第 三要具有非凡的社交与表达能力; 最后要具有一定广度和深度的常识

# 通商津師事務所

COMMERCE & FINANCE LAW OFFICES

# 践的巨人、 学术的匠心

专访十五佳诉讼律师上榜律师陈浮

北京市通商律师事务所管理合伙人陈 浮律师是一名实战经验与学术成果并 济的资深争议解决律师,擅长商事诉 讼与仲裁、公司、合同、金融、私募 投资、企业清算与不良资产处置、知 识产权保护、刑事辩护(经济犯罪领 域)等方面的法律业务。从业17年 来,陈律师已处理诉讼、仲裁案件及 非诉项目超过七百件,其中包含多个 争议金额大、法律关系复杂、社会影 响大的案件。陈律师还担任北京交通 大学法学院联合导师和对外经济贸易 大学硕士生校外导师等职务,并已出 版两本学术著作。

# 职业愿景与价值观

在陈律师看来,无论是个体还是组 织,都应该有明确的愿景和价值观 指引其前进的方向。对于陈律师及其 团队来说,其职业愿景就是要成为国 内超一流的商事争议解决律师团队, 不仅精通法律,还真正理解商业,能 为客户解决实际问题;通过自己的勤 奋、努力赢得体面的生活;在个案中 全力维护委托人的合法权益,推动和 追求整个社会的公平正义。为了实现 这一愿景,陈律师和他的团队树立了 "专业、进取、包容、分享、担当"的 价值观,对此他解释道:第一,专业 是律师执业的基石与根本;第二,律 师是一个活到老学到老的职业,只有 保持进取精神不断学习才能立干不 败;第三,由于经常处于矛盾和纠纷 之中,因此面对多元化的利益诉求、 文化和价值观,律师为人处世必须包 容豁达;第四,律师不可以自私自 利,应该懂得分享和谦让;第五 律师除了责任心之外,还要有担当, 为维护当事人的合法权益、法律的 正确实施和社会公平正义,敢说真 话不退缩。

# 法律服务的三个关键词

陈律师认为给客户提供全面高质量的 法律服务,不仅体现在给客户理想的 案件结果,同时也要注意客户的感 受。"专业"、"效率"和"客户体验"是确 保法律服务质量的三个关键词。陈律 师解读道:"首先,我们从律师理 念、思维、知识、技能、经验、服务 方式、办案工具等多方面不断提高专 业化水平,最大限度满足乃至超越客 户的法律服务需求,在法律框架内争 取客户利益的最大化。其次,我们特 别注重办理案件的效率:我们有一整 套成熟的工作机制、工作流程, 一旦 接受客户委托代理案件,相当于这根 '发条'就上紧了,不断推动案件往前 走。第三就是注重客户体验。我们对 每个案件都追求不仅结果要美,办案 过程也要让客户舒服。我相信,上面 这三点律师如果全做到了,给客户提 供的法律服务必然是全面和高质量 的。"

# 案例与心得

近十年来,陈律师已经办理了多个重 大复杂的股权投资纠纷案件,也作为 仲裁员审理了多个这种类型的案件, 其中一些案件引起了社会的广泛关 注,案件所创设的裁判规则可以说是 开创性的。这类案件往往标的额大, 交易结构复杂,法律适用标准不一。 处理这类案件,不仅要具备过硬的法 律技能和经验,还要有丰富的投融资 方面的经验和知识。以陈律师及其团 队去年所参与的终审胜诉的建银文化 公司与金某案为例,这是一个基于股 权回购债务衍生的夫妻共债案,作为 案件基础事实的投资交易结构很复 杂,涉及拆除VIE架构、清退境外美 元基金、拆除红筹架构回归A股等, 给判断原始股东回购责任、是否夫妻



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共同经营等增加了很大难度,要求律 师必须掌握境内外融资及上市领域的 专业知识。此外,该案审理期间最高 人民法院颁布了一个新司法解释,改 变了举证责任归属,陈律师及其团队 迅速反应,准确把握司法解释的立法 目的和内在逻辑,完善诉讼主张和证 据,扭转了不利局面。

# 学术成就

除了拥有多年的实务经验,陈律师还 担任多个高校的导师职务,并且取得 了丰富的学术成果。对此,陈律师说 道:"律师工作注重务实,但不能总 是低头走路,也要总结实践中的经验 教训、心得体会, 升华为实践智慧和 理论用于指导实践。基于这种认识, 我习惯了在办案之余勤总结,多思 考,笔耕不辍。"陈律师目前已经出 版两本书籍:《律师办理民商事诉 讼案件操作指引》和《律师执业基 本技能-民事诉讼业务篇》,后者已 作为全国律协培训实习律师统一教 材使用。

# 未来展望

陈律师认为,科学技术的发展在不断 改变人类的生产方式,争议解决业务 也同样在发生变化,例如,计算机技 术和大数据的发展使裁判规则越来越 透明,电子数据证据逐渐成为诉讼或 仲裁中主要的证据类型,这就要求律 师在熟练掌握法律技能的同时还要学 会利用科技手段。此外,随着全球一 体化的发展和我国"一带一路"战略的 实施,不论是经济活动还是人与人之 间的关系都会更多地受到多个法域法 律制度的调整,进而使争议解决业务 中的涉外因素越来越多,未来会有更 多的涉外、跨境争议解决业务产生, 对律师而言既是机遇也是挑战。

# **COVER STORY**

not clearly defined or stipulated due to "law lag." It poses a big challenge to litigators when faced with disputes of new types, for which the existing laws only have rather vague provisions, Xie says.

When dealing with problems like this, Xie says that on one hand, they analyze the background and causes of the dispute in order to grasp the substantial legal issues involved, find out the judicial spirit of the precedent, and then explain the views in combination with academic interpretations; on the other hand, they keep expanding their knowledge of different industries and fields, and keep abreast of hotspots in the society, thus improving the capability to resolve new types of disputes.

Xie shares with us a case he and his team worked regarding a dispute between a famous state-owned central enterprise auto parts company and a national federation of industry and commerce about the name of auto parts exhibition. The core of the dispute was the ownership of the right to use the name of the exhibition, which had been held for more than ten years, and the resulting infringement loss compensation. Since the subjects involved in the case have great influence in the industry, and the exhibition could generate tens of millions of yuan in revenue every year, the court was very cautious about the trial. However, the name of the exhibition was not a trademark or a shop name, nor was it a patent or copyright. It did not belong to the object of the trademark law or patent law. Therefore, whether such a name was exclusive or not, and if so, what law should be applied, were the core issues that troubled the court, causing the difficulty in advancing the case. Xie and his team, after a lot of research on law, judicial interpretation and similar cases, proposed to the court that based on the evidence, it could be seen that this exhibition had gained popularity because its long history and great economic value. As an exclusive right similar to a trademark, it should be protected. In terms of the application of law, since the case could be understood as an improper competition and infringement in essence, the anti-unfair competition law could be applied to the trial. These views were adopted by the court, and the case proceeded smoothly.

Chen of Commerce & Finance Law Offices pointed out another big challenge: to have thorough understanding of the case and develop a practical litigation strategy within the shortest time frame. "We usually work in teams according to division of responsibilities and give full play to the capabilities of different lawyers, thereby accomplishing the task at an expedited pace," Chen says.

Chen and his team represented a CCB cultural company in a joint debt case which was based on equity buyback debt. The structure of the investment transaction in the case was very complicated, involving VIE structure, overseas USD funds, and removal of the red-chip structure to return to A shares; and the legal relationships in the case were also complex, which included the expansion of arbitration clauses and the determination of shareholder repurchase responsibility, debt inheritance, identification of joint debt, and distribution of burden of proof between the creditor and debtor.

After accepting the entrustment, a team composed of partners and attorneys was quickly established within a short time, gathering elites in various fields including domestic and foreign financing and listing, and marriage and family affairs. The team responded quickly, straightened out the facts, found evidence, looked up the laws, prepared plans, made demonstrations, and worked out litigation strategies. Their claim was finally upheld by the court.

In Wang Zhao's opinion, the professional challenge is how to turn the situation around in an unfavorable condition, so as to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the client. "Under these circumstances, we should not give up easily, instead, we should seek opportunities to protect our clients through in-depth study of laws and further exploration of the details of the facts," Wang Zhao says. He then shared with us the first vertical monopoly civil

储备。执业以来,徐羽律师一直奉 行"诉讼的最终目的就是说服法官"的 职业哲学。他解释道:"律师代理一 个案件,其实最终的目的就是说服 法官在最大程度上支持己方主张。 因此,说服法官的能力可以说是律 师的核心能力。说服法官的基本条 件就是要理解一场诉讼, 我认为诉 讼的本质就是:原告从万千的已经 发生过的事情中,讲出一个法律故 事,提出他的要求,再论证这个故 事是否真实存在,要求是否符合法 律的规定,而被告则是极力否认这 个故事或者否认其要求的合法性。 而作为律师,就是要协助当事人从 无数的事实中,找到相应的依据, 争取让法官信服自己的观点。

# 挑战虽多且艰,智慧更胜一筹

聊起"对于诉讼律师来说通常会遇 到的挑战"这一话题时,竞天公诚 律师事务所谢鹏律师说到,诉讼律 师因为业务的特点,会接触到社会 不同领域、不同行业的方方面面。 随着社会的不断发展和进步,会不 断出现新型的法律争议,而法律法 规由于其滞后性,有时无法及时地 加以明确规定。因此,出现较为超 前且对律师来说比较陌生的争议 问题,而现行法律法规又对此存在 模糊点,是诉讼律师可能遇到的一 大挑战。但即使是这样的难题,谢 鹏律师也把握了相应的对策:一方 面,围绕案情背后的争议焦点,分 析争议产生的背景和原因,把握案 件所涉法律问题的实质,寻找和挖 掘判例所体现出的司法精神,结合 学理解释对观点进行阐释;另一方 ,在平时的工作中积累并学习 各行业、各领域的专业知识,及时 把握社会的热点、难点、痛点,着 重提升解决区别于传统纠纷的新型 争议的能力。拿谢鹏律师及其团队 处理过的一个某知名国有央企下属 汽配公司与某行业全国性工商联合 会关于汽车配件展会名称的争议案 件,当时争议的核心是一个已举办 十余年的汽配展会名称使用权归属 及由此产生的侵权损失赔偿问题 由于案涉主体都在业内具有较大 影响力,且该展会每年可产生数千 万元的收益,故法院对于本案的审 理十分慎重,但展会的名称并不是 商标、字号,亦不是某种专利、版 权,不属于《商标法》、 法》这些法规规范的对象,因此这



# 具有战略眼光的"攻城略地"诉讼律师 ——专访观韬中茂律师事务所合伙人吕毅律师

# A litigation lawyer with strategic vision

a conversation with Lloyd Lyu, partner of Guantao Law Firm



观韬中茂律师事务所合伙人 lvyi@guantao.com

# ALB:诉讼律师和非诉律师有何区别?诉讼律师要具备 哪些品质和技能?

**吕毅:**非诉律师是尽可能预防风险发生,就像是守城的 军队。但诉讼律师要攻城略地,像将军打仗般制定正确 的战略战术。两者有巨大区别。

很多五百强公司法总具备非诉和合规领域经验,但管理 重大仲裁和诉讼案件往往是他们的痛点。我们处理过的 许多案例,标的额都在数亿元,相当于上市公司几年的 净利润。接手案件后,诉讼律师应首先了解案件所涉 及的公司核心商业利益点,这是最关键的能力。举例 来说,2019年我们曾代理上药控股公司处理和某杭州 医药公司间1.23亿元的合同纠纷,该注册资金为5000 万元的公司后来估值已达15亿,因此不可能将价值30 元的股份以每股1元的价格出售给上药控股,正是通过 解释背后的商业逻辑,我们说服法官判定两家公司不 存在关联关系。

我本人同时担任民营企业组织正和岛的上海执行秘书 长,并多年担任各类企业法律顾问,正是基于此,对 各类企业的商业逻辑、盈利模式等具备着深刻理解。

# ALB:法总该如何挑选诉讼律师?

吕毅:除上面所提到的对商业利益点的把握外,法总应 首先考察诉讼律师的法律能力。诉讼律师应能基于现有 证据情况、制定正确战略战术。第一、应根据证据重 量,在民事、刑事、行政途径中进行恰当选择;第二 应能够使用证据支撑选定的法律关系,同时提供一套清 晰的书面文件。我们曾代理一起商业秘密侵权案,原告 多位高管在离职后另设公司生产同样的汽车零部件,并 以1/2价格出售给公司原有客户,如果不起诉,未来可能 出现高管继续窃取公司商业秘密的行为,公司将面临倒 闭。但由于部件上没有标识,几乎无法取证。于是我们 选择了行政途径,通过向市场管理局举报,由市场管理 局检查大队取证保全了对方财务账册和技术图纸,并通 过这些证据完成了行政处罚,使得客户不能再购买侵权 公司的产品,保护了原公司的合法利益。

上述法律能力应占挑选考量的70%,剩下的30%,在 于诉讼律师有能力向公检法清晰阐述法律关系,并与 案件涉及的其他政府社会机构进行必要沟通。这就需 要律师具备一定的社会网络,比如我本人同时担任政 协常委、副秘书长、同济大学公共管理硕士教授、国 际仲裁员等。

法总应该根据这两点能力,用加权平均的方式进行选

# ALB:请进一步分享您近年来在争议解决领域取得的

吕毅:我在多年执业经验中为多家世界五百强公司代理 过重大疑难案件,包括国家电网集团、德国采埃孚集 团、上海医药集团、雅高集团、金光纸业集团、中石 油集团、东方航空集团、中粮集团、上海烟草集团等。 近期另一件代表性案件,是2019年代理东航集团诉华 信证券支付2.78亿元的资产管理纠纷案,作为标杆性案 例,其结果会影响其他类似案例的判决。我们通过第一 时间对网站上成功回赎的证明进行了证据公证、通过对 方和我方证据证明资产管理人在投资和分配过程中存在 重大过失,最终取得了全面胜诉。

# ALB: What is the difference between a litigation lawyer and a transaction lawyer? What are the qualities and skills of a litigation lawyer?

Lyu: Transaction lawyers try the best to prevent risks, just like an army guarding the city, but a litigation lawyer has to make right strategies and tactics to "take field" like a general at war. There is a huge difference between the two

Many legal counsels from Fortune 500 companies have rich experience in areas of transaction and compliance but lack skills in managing major arbitration and litigation cases. We have handled many cases with disputed amount of hundred of millions of yuan, which may amount to several years' profit of a listed company. After taking over a case, a litigation lawyer should first understand the core commercial interests of the client, which is the most critical ability. For instance, in 2019, we represented Shanghai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. in a contract dispute of 123 million yuan with a Hangzhou pharmaceutical company, which had 50 million yuan a registered capital and was later valued at 1.5 billion yuan, it was therefore impossible to sell a 30 yuan stake to Shanghai pharmaceutical at 1 yuan per share, and it was by explaining the business logic behind it that we persuaded the judge to rule that the two companies were not related.

I also serve as the executive secretary-general of the Shanghai branch of Z.H.ISLAND, an association of private enterprises, and have been the legal advisor to various companies over many years. That is why I have a profound understanding of the business goals and profit models of various enterprises.

# ALB: How should a general counsel select litigation lawyers?

Lyu: In addition to a grasp of the commercial interests as mentioned above, the general counsel should first assess the professional capabilities of litigation lawyers. Litigation lawyers should be able to develop proper strategies and tactics based on the available evidence: first, they should be able to choose from the civil, criminal and administrative approaches depending on the weight of evidence; second, they should be able to use evidence to support the selected legal approach and provide a clear set of written documents. In a commercial secret infringement case where we represented the infringed company, a number of senior management established a new company to manufacture similar auto parts after they left the infringed company and sold these auto parts to the customers of the infringed company at half of the price. If the infringed company does not take actions, the former senior management may continue to steal its commercial secrets in the future, which may lead to the bankruptcy of the infringed company.

The problem is there are no markings on the auto parts, therefore it is hard to collect evidence. Thus, we chose the administrative approach. After reporting to the Market Administration Bureau, the inspection team of the Market Administration Bureau took actions to preserve financial books and technical drawings of the infringing company, and imposed administrative punishment based on such evidence, including banning customers from purchasing products from the infringing company, which have protected the legal interest of the infringed company.

The skills mentioned above account for 70 percent of the consideration when it comes to selecting litigation lawyers, and the remaining 30 percent lies in the lawyer's ability of clearly explaining the legal nexus to authorities such as public security bureaus, courts, procuratorates, arbitration centers and carrying out necessary communication with other social institutions. This requires lawyers to have certain social networks. For example, I am also the deputy secretary-general of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and a member of the Standing Committee of CPPCC, a professor of MPA of Tongji University, an international arbitrator and so on.

General counsel should, on pro rata basis, take these capabilities into consideration when selecting litigation lawyers.

# ALB: Could you share more about your achievements in dispute resolution in recent years?

Lyu: I have dealt with many major and difficult cases for Fortune 500 companies, including State Grid Group, ZF Group, Shanghai Pharmaceutical Group, Accor Group, Sinar Paper Group, CNPC, China Eastern Airlines Group, COFCO Group and Shanghai Tobacco Group. One of the representative cases in recent time is the asset management dispute in 2019, in which we, on behalf of China Eastern Airlines Group, filed a case against CEFC Shanghai Securities Limited for 278 million yuan. As a benchmark case, the result will affect the judgment of other similar cases. We notarized the evidence of successful redemption on the website at the first time, proved the gross negligence of the asset manager in investment and distribution based on both parties' evidence, and finally won the case.

# **COVER STORY**

"In legal proceedings, it's essential for lawyers to convince the judge to support their claims to the greatest extent. Our job is to help our clients go through the numerous facts to find grounds supporting their claims, and then convince the judge."

"律师代理一个案件,其实最终的目的就是说服法官在最大程度上支持己方主张。因此,说服法官的能力可以说是律师的核心能力。而作为律师,就是要协助当事人从无数的事实中,找到相应的依据,争取让法官信服自己的观点。"

- Xu Yu, Hylands Law Firm 徐羽, 浩天信和律师事务所

litigation case in China, in which he and his team represented the defendant.

The plaintiff accused the defendant of setting a minimum resale price in the distribution agreement, which constituted a vertical monopoly agreement. It is provided for in Article 14 of the Anti-Monopoly Law of China that it prohibits the operator and the counterparty from entering into a vertical monopoly agreement that sets the minimum price at which a reseller can sell the product. Therefore, it seems that there was no reason to refute the plaintiff's claim. But Wang Zhao and his team did not easily give up. They argued that the definition of a monopoly agreement is an agreement that excludes or restricts competition; furthermore, in a recent case, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to demote resale-price-maintenance antitrust cases to the rule-of-reason standard, thus an agreement that stipulates the minimum resale price does not constitute the violation of Article 14 of the Anti-monopoly Law; and it constitutes a monopoly agreement only if it "excludes or restricts competition." In a civil lawsuit, the plaintiff bringing such a claim must prove there exists the "exclusion or restriction of competition." Their views were accepted by the court. What's more exciting is that their views are line with the provisions of the judicial interpretation issued by the Supreme People's Court later concerning the elements of vertical monopoly agreements.

#### **ADVICE TO COMPANIES**

Regarding how companies can effectively avoid disputes, Xie points out: "Enterprises should always pay attention to stay control of legal risks in the operation and transaction process, especially when signing documents such as relevant agreements. It is important to pay close attention to the language used in the contract. In my experience, disputes often arise because a word or expression used in a clause is ambiguous, and sometimes disputes arise from the expression of the general clauses of the contract which are often neglected. It is recommended that an enterprise should consult relevant legal professionals before determining its business model or conducting transactions, so as to control risks from the beginning."

If a dispute is already raised, an enterprise should be very careful of words it uses or the statements it makes when communicating with the opposite party in the dispute, since certain words or expressions might be used as evidence against them, which might increase the chance of causing the enterprise to lose a case, Xie warns. The enterprise should start gathering and keeping evidence in favor of itself as early as possible, especially if the enterprise is the defendant; and the

种名称到底具不具备专属性、如果 具备应该适用什么法律,这是当时 困扰法院的核心问题,并一度导致 案件难以推进。当时谢鹏律师及其 团队在对法律、司法解释及类似案 例做了大量研究后向法院提出:基 于证据可以看到该展会因为多年的 举办,已具备知名度,其名称具有 巨大的经济价值,其作为一个类似 于商标的专属权利应该得到保护 而在法律适用方面,由于本案本质 上可理解为一种不当的竞争及侵权 行为,因此可适用《反不正当竞争 法》进行审理。最终这些观点均被 法院予以采纳,从而使本案得以顺 利推进。

通商律师事务所陈浮律师分享 了作为诉讼律师所面临的另一大挑 战:在最短的时间内对案情进行透 彻把握并制定出切实可行的诉讼策 略。"对此,我们通常是团队作战, 按照已经比较成熟的工作机制分工 合作,充分发挥多位律师的聪明才 智、能力与经验,一鼓作气完成任 务。"陈浮律师说道。他和他的团队 曾代理建银文化公司处理一个基于 股权回购债务衍生的夫妻共债案。 作为案件基础事实的投资交易结构 很复杂,涉及拆除VIE架构、清退境 外美元基金、拆除红筹架构回归A股 等;案件的法律关系也比较复杂 涉及仲裁条款的扩张、股东回购责 任认定、债务继承、夫妻共同债务 的认定、债权人与债务人的举证责 任分配等。接受委托后,由多位合 伙人和律师组成的工作团队在短 时间内迅速建立起来,集结了在包

# [■] 浩天信和律师事务所 HYLANDS LAW FIRM

# 专访北京市浩天信和律师事务 所高级合伙人徐羽律师

# Interview with Mr. Xu Yu, Senior Partner of Beijing Hylands Law Firm



浩天信和管委会主任 高级合伙人 xuyu@hylandslaw.com

# 据我们所知,徐律师不仅是浩天信和资深诉讼律师,同 时也是律所"争议解决专业委员会"的牵头人,请问在您 看来,贵所争议解决部门的核心竞争力是什么?

在我看来,浩天信和争议解决部门的核心竞争力,是"帮 助客户整体解决问题"的能力。争议的形成有很多原因, 因此诉讼中双方的关系也未必一定是"势不两立",我们 要求自己从一个更高的角度,对每一个客户的诉求进行 全面分析,从而提出整体解决的方案。

举个例子,我们处理过一个股权纠纷,客户是小股东, 对于退出条款和大股东产生了巨大争议,导致对公司完 全失控。在最初,客户希望通过知情权纠纷,了解公司 的财务信息和其他相关信息,再从中找寻大股东的违约 行为。但我们综合分析后发现,标的公司是一个房地产 公司,唯一的资产是土地使用权,但由于公司大小股东 长期不和,导致开发进程停滞,土地甚至面临被收回的 风险。针对这一点,我们和客户讨论后,决定直接提起" 公司清算之诉",同时,通过公司清算之诉,再把大股东 拉回谈判桌。最终,这个案子以庭外调解结案,大小股 东均对结果表示满意。

# 作为一个优秀的诉讼律师,请问您对于一名诉讼律师在 办案中需要注意的事项,有何建议?

作为一名诉讼律师,具有"扎实的法律功底"以及"专业、 努力的工作态度"等,应该是基本要求,我就不多说了。 在我看来,诉讼的核心是"说服法官",我从这个方面讲 讲我的心得。

首先,你应当简洁而高效的表达自己的观点。你整理的 证据、发表的言辞,以及提交的文件,都应当紧紧围绕 诉讼目的来进行,使得法官能够用最短的时间来理解你 的意图和观点,让法官切实感受到你的专业、逻辑分 明、以及积极推动案件进程的善意。

其次,你应当站在法官的角度思考问题。法官与律师不 同,会站在一个更高的角度去思考问题,以及判决可能 带来的影响。因此,作为律师,如果能够以法官的高度 和角度去思考问题,那么你的观点就更加容易被法官接 受,自然也更能够取得满意的结果。

# 徐律师在诉讼之外,是否还深耕其他领域,您能不能说 ·说诉讼和这些领域的关系?

最近几年,我还从事了相当一部分"破产与重整"案件的 处理,其实从本质上来说,"破产与重整"和"诉讼"一样, 都是为客户"纾困",只不过在"破产与重整"领域,"纾困" 的范畴更加宽广一些。因此,从传统的诉讼业务,向"破 产与重整"作进一步的延伸,其实本来就是一个顺理成章 和水到渠成的事情。

从另一个方面讲,其实这也是我刚才提到的"帮助客户整 体解决问题"的需要。"诉讼"是"破产与重整"之前,甚至 是过程中都无法回避的程序,而反过来,"破产与重整" 也可以帮助企业摆脱众多诉讼,从而得到新生。因此, 我本人也希望这两个领域的工作能够相辅相成,互相起 到一个积极的促进作用。

Mr.Xu, We understand that you are not only an experienced litigation lawyer in the firm, but also the leading partner responsible for the Dispute Resolution Committee in the firm. Could you share with us what is the core competitive edge of your firm's dispute resolution department?

In my view, our dispute resolution department's core competitive edge is our ability to advise and support our clients in a comprehensive and integrated way. There are many causes why disputes arise, in this process, parties in a litigation may not be totally irreconcilable. We endeayor to understand each individual client's claims thoroughly so that we are able to provide a comprehensive and viable solution to each client

For example, we once worked on an equity dispute in which our client is the minority shareholder. Our client and the majority shareholder disputed over many material issues including the exit clause in shareholders' agreements. Consequently, our client significantly lost its voice over the company's management. Initially, our client resorted to its right of information, through which it hoped to obtain the company's financial information and other material information, and to identify the majority shareholders' default events. However, we studied the case and noted that the subject company is a real estate company whose one and only asset is its land use right. Because the longlasting disputes between its majority and minority shareholder, the real estate development severely stagnated and as a consequence, potential risks arose that the land use right may be taken back by the government. Based on our work and communications with client, we eventually advised our client to file for dissolution of the company, through which majority shareholder was dragged back to negotiations. In the end, the case was successfully settled out of court and both majority and minority shareholders were satisfied with the outcome.

#### As a prominent litigation lawyer, what is your suggestion to young litigation lawyers?

A litigation lawyer is expected to be well equipped with legal knowledge and act in a professional and diligent way. These are basic requirements which I would not spend too much time to elaborate. I would like to share my thoughts on how to convince the judge in litigation cases.

First, a litigation lawyer should be able to express his opinions in a concise and efficient way. All the evidence, oral or written arguments and documents provided should be pertinent to the claims so that judges can quickly understand your claims and opinions. A good litigation lawyer should be able to display his capabilities of logic reasoning, professional skills and positive intentions to

Second, a litigation lawyer should be able to think from judges'point of view. Judges, different from lawyers, consider issues from a broader aspect. They always weigh over various potential influences that may arise from the judgment. If a lawyer can understand and address judge's concerns, his argument may be more accepted by the judge, correspondingly, the disputes may be solved in a more smooth and productive way.

# Mr.Xu, do you also specialize in other areas besides litigation? What is your view of relationship between these areas and litigation?

In past several years, I have also been working on legal entities'dissolution and reorganization. In essence, dissolution and reorganization and litigation are in common. While it is more direct to understand that in dissolution and reorganization cases, we are assisting our clients to "walk out of deadlock and plight," actually so does this in litigation cases. Therefore, it is quite a matter of course to extend our specialized legal service from traditional litigation areas to dissolution and reorganization areas

From another aspect, this is also the need to "support our clients to solve disputes in a comprehensive way", as I just mentioned. Litigation is an unavoidable process before and during the dissolution and reorganization proceeding. On the other hand, dissolution and reorganization can help many enterprises to get out of disputes and revive. Therefore, I hope that my work in these two areas could interact positively to better serve our clients.

# **COVER STORY**

enterprise should consult lawyers the earliest possible, and start preparing litigation materials under the guidance of professionals, so as to protect its legal rights and interests to the maximum extent, he advises.

According to Xu, an enterprise, especially a large enterprise, should "avoid disputes by thinking like there will be." In other words, when a company conducts a specific activity or transaction, it should first assume that disputes may arise in the future, and all terms or conditions set forth in the contract or agreement should be based on how to avoid disputes, or turn the dispute to its advantage. On this basis, the enterprise should establish a complete set of risk control mechanism in advance to protect its legitimate rights and interests to the greatest extent if a dispute arises. Enterprises should also involve legal professionals in their day-to-day operation activities, who can help them discover and resolve disputes at the earliest stage. Taking an active attitude towards disputes and adopting effective measures will help gain advantage in the future dispute settlement if disputes arise.

# **LOOKING FORWARD**

In general, there will be a higher demand for dispute resolution services, and the dispute resolution business will become more and more internationalized, diversified and specialized, Wang Zhao predicts. As the overall economic growth slows down or declines, there will be more disputes of different types. However, many of these disputes will be resolved through litigation or arbitration, which will lead to further growth of dispute resolution business. With the introduction of new laws and regulations, new types of disputes will continue to emerge. And as China sees rapid development in foreign trade, investment, and the Belt and Road Initiative related sectors, more and more overseas arbitration institutions set up their representative offices in China, and cases could possibly be heard in free trade zones, there will be more demands for solving cross-border disputes, Wang Zhao says. 💩

括境内外融资及上市和婚姻家事等 多个领域执业的精英。团队迅速反 应,捋事实,找证据,查法律,找 案例,拟方案,做论证,第一时间 吃透案情并拟定了诉讼策略,并最 终得到了法院的支持。

在处于明显不利的状态下扭转局势,为客户争取利益则是生师所分享的职业挑战。对此他表示:"在这种情形下,不能轻易放弃,而是通过进一步对事实细节了解和对法律(包括法理和域会。"王钊律师分享了他和团队代理被告。当年的中国第一起纵向垄断民事诉讼案件。

原告指控被告在经销协议中 约定的限定最低转售价格之条款是 纵向垄断协议,而中国的《反垄断 法》第14条确实禁止经营者与交易 相对方达成限定最低转售价格的纵 向垄断协议。在此情形下,似乎找 不到可以反驳原告前述垄断协议主 张的理由。但是,王钊律师及其团 队并没有轻易放弃对该垄断协议主 张的抗辩机会,从垄断协议的定义 (即"排除、限制竞争的协议") 以及美国联邦最高法院最新案例对 限定最低转售价格协议的认定从"本 身违法原则"向"合理原则"转变的分 析,提出了限定最低转售价格的协 议本身并不构成违反《反垄断法》 第14条的垄断协议,只有该协议" 排除或限制了竞争",才构成垄断协 议。而在民事诉讼中,证明限定最 低转售价格协议"排除或限制竞争"的 举证责任在原告。当时最高人民法 院有关审理垄断民事纠纷案件的司 法解释还没有发布,也没有以往案 例可以参考,但前述观点最终被法 院所认可,而且也和后来最高院颁 布的司法解释对于纵向垄断性协议 构成要件规定相吻合。

# 对企业的建议

 商事交易时,提前咨询相关的法律 专业人员、从源头上控制风险。 而如果已经发生纠纷,谢鹏律师建 议:第一,企业在与争议相对方进 行沟通及应答时要十分审慎,某些 表述或字眼都可能被对方作为日后 诉讼的证据,从而增加自身的败诉 风险;其次,要尽早开始并随时注 重留存和收集有利于自身的证据 为后续诉讼做好准备,特别是在企 业自身作为被告的情况下;最后 要尽早咨询律师,在专业律师的指 导下积极准备诉讼材料、搜集各种 形式的诉讼证据,建议企业尽早咨 询和引入专业人士,最大限度地保 护自身的合法权益。

徐羽律师认为,一个企业,特 别是大型企业应当以"发生纠纷的思 维来避免纠纷"。也就是说,企业 在进行一个特定活动或者交易时 首先应当假设将来是有可能发生纠 纷的,然后所有的条款或者条件 都应当围绕如何避免纠纷,或者在 纠纷中取得优势来进行。在这个基 础上,企业还应当提前建立一套完 备的风控机制,即在日常生产经营 活动中,就伴随着专业法律工作者 全程参与,通过建立一套有效的风 控预警机制,可以使得大部分纠纷 在形成的过程中被发现并被协调解 决。在纠纷发生后,为最大限度的 保护好自己的合法利益,应当积极 应对。当前在国内,一些企业的管 理者由于对法律的不熟悉对诉讼 处于恐惧心理,往往对纠纷采取一 种消极回避的态度。这种态度不仅 会使得纠纷因得不到解决而不断扩 大,还会在日后争议解决的过程中 处于被动地位。

# 未来展望

# 競天公誠律師事務所 JINGTIAN & GONGCHENG

# 把握细节铸造成功

-专访十五佳诉讼律师上榜律师谢鹏

ALB:作为一名杰出的诉讼律师, 您的执业哲学是?

谢鹏律师:在职业生涯中,我从始 至终一直秉承的是以解决争议为初 心,以服务客户为核心,以细致负 责为本心的思维方向和行为指南。 首先,作为一名诉讼律师,不应过 分地追求案件的胜诉率, 我认为最 终的目的是在存在风险时通过专业 化的方式防患于未然,避免纠纷; 而在发生争议后,高效率、高质量 地解决问题和争议。我们工作的初 衷是帮助客户降低风险、解决问题 而并非争论出谁是谁非。其次,客户 的需求是我们关注的核心。在处理诉 讼案件时,我们要了解客户的具体需 要以及真正希望达到的效果,以客 户利益的最大化为出发点,通过专 业的方式,维护客户的合法权益。 再者,我认为作为一名律师,执业 过程中严谨、细致、负责的态度是 不可或缺的。只有本着负责任、认 真细心的态度,才能在职业生涯中 走得更远、更好。

ALB:您参与过的争议解决案件涵 盖了多个领域和行业,且多次在不 利情况下反败为胜,对此您有何成 功经验?请列举一个可公开的案例。 谢律师:诉讼律师要在案件原本不 利的情况下反败为胜,首先要多角 度地去挖掘案件新的突破口,而不 拘泥干先前的思维模式和诉讼方法: 第二,必要时需要跳出争议相对方 的逻辑框架,通过梳理案情及证据 创建一个更有利于客户的逻辑和方 案,从而将争议的核心控制在我们 新划定的范围和战场中。第三,要 密切关注案件的细节之处,据我的 经验,很多案件是在某处字句中发 现契机,从而抓住核心要害。诉讼 如战斗, 法庭如战场。跳出原有模

和出发点,理顺新的逻辑,如开辟 一片新的战场, 能将相对方拉入有 利于客户方的局面中。例如我近期 处理过的一个案件,是某国有通信 设备公司与某通讯科技公司因电子 商务平台上的买卖合同而产生的纠 纷。事件的起因是某通讯科技公司 通过我方客户的电子商务平台下单 购买商品,该通讯科技公司后续将 线上平台的账户密码交给第三方使 用且由第三方提货从而造成了货物 的损失,进而引发了争议。该案的 核心是在没有明确书面授权的情况 下,掌握密码的第三方通过QQ变更 提货方式并提货能否视为该通讯科技 公司(案件相对方)已收到货物。 在一审中,争议相对方一直引导法 院关注案件中已有类授权文件的形 式及内容,通过放大相关文件的瑕 疵,从而使法院认为该等类授权文 件不足以构成对第三方的有效授权, 进而判决客户败诉并向对方支付2亿 余元的货款。在此不利的情况下,我 们接受委托协助客户参与了案件的二 审程序,对诉讼策略进行了调整。 一方面,我们没有从传统的买卖合 同纠纷入手,而是以电子商务交易 的特点为出发点,挖掘了电子商务 本人行为原则这一电子商务交易中 特有的原则,并以此为突破口,绕 过已有类授权文件的形式及内容之 争,直接从交易的本质特点进行切 入,通过从相关判例中提炼立法及 司法精神,向法院强调了电子商务 交易中的本人行为原则,对电子商 务交易中控制账号密码的一方当然 地被视为代账户持有人进行行动, 而无需书面授权这一观点进行深入 阐释;另一方面,我们也重新梳理 了案件的证据,并从中挖掘出不少 细节,证明了第三方对于电子商务

式和逻辑,从细节处寻找新的角度



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平台上账号的控制,是经过争议相 对方许可和确认的,且第三方几次 通过QQ对订单的修改均得到了相对 方的认可,由此推翻了相对方的整体 逻辑,使二审法院直接改判客户不承 担仟何责仟。

ALB:在管理团队的过程中,您在青 年律师身上最看重的特质有哪些?他 们应该着重培养哪些技能和品质? **谢律师:**首先,青年律师要有责任 心。只有负责任的律师,才能从客 户的角度去思考问题,尽最大可能 为其解决问题,获得认可;第二, 要有细致严谨的工作态度。这不仅 体现在对文件处理上的细致,我更 看重的是在案件中对细致点的关注 度和挖掘能力。因此, 我认为青年 律师应该着重培养严谨负责的工作 态度,并培养自身对细节的敏感度 和把握度。青年律师还要在平时的 工作中注意积累经验,反思工作方 法,培养发现问题和细致点的思维 能力,从而提升自身的职业素养和 专业能力。

ALB:您对争议解决业务的未来有 怎样的展望?您自身未来有何职业 愿景和目标?

谢律师:争议解决业务未来将会向 专业化、行业化进行发展,专业分 工越来越强,这对诉讼律师的专业 化要求也会越来越高。对于自身未 来的职业愿景和发展目标,首先当 然是做好自己的本职工作,尽心负 责地服务好每个客户;同时我国法 律法规在不断地更新,我会在处理 好每个案件的同时,不断地学习, 带领团队对新法新规进行研读,紧 跟时代的步伐,提升专业化的高度、 精度,从而增强自身以及团队的行 业竞争力。

# SAFER HAVENS 更安全的避风港

With 2020 looking shaky, offshore jurisdictions can provide much-needed shelter and support for international deals, listings, incorporations and restructurings.

2020年伊始即呈现动荡局面,离岸司法管辖区或将为国际交易、上市、 公司注册以及重组提供必需的庇护和支持。

BY ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS 作者:亚洲法律杂志

The year 2019 was an eventful one: the Hong Kong protests, Brexit, the trade wars between the U.S. and China, and Japan-South Korea, and Trump's impeachment were just a few of the events that left their mark on those 12 months.

And if the start of 2020 is anything to go by, we are in for a wild ride over the new decade as well. The year kicked off with unrest in the Middle East between Iran and the U.S., rising oil prices, U.S.-China trade deal developments, a new respiratory disease virus emerging in China, the Jakarta floods, and the Australian bushfires. And of these happened in just the first month.

James Noble, partner and head of litigation, insolvency and restructuring practice of Asia in Carey Olsen's Singapore office, believes many variables could create uncertainty and challenges in the second roaring 20s.

"There is a fairly long list of candidates but in my view, the most important ones are the tensions caused by the U.S.-China trade war, China's economic slowdown, the civil unrest in Hong Kong and the impending U.S. election. The first three of these, in

particular, are contributing towards increased levels of distressed debt and the need for companies to take measures to deal with aggressive creditors," he says.

Noble thinks a significant proportion of those measures will occur in the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands, given the high levels of inbound and outbound investment that both jurisdictions have with Mainland China and the U.S.

Raymond Ng, Hong Kong-based corporate partner at Harneys, sees clients already cautious about what lies ahead.

"We have seen some clients taking a more conservative approach at the beginning of 2020 in light of the continuing uncertainties in the world from the U.S.-China trade war to the recent escalating tension between Iran and the U.S.," says Ng.

"Some also fear the political crisis in Hong Kong may continue," he adds.

Given that the Hong Kong protestors have been asking for "five demands, not one less," it would seem likely that Ng's assessment of a political impasse may be correct.

2019年堪称多少之秋——香港抗议,英国脱欧,中美贸易战,日韩冲突,特朗普被弹劾——这些仅仅是这12个月里发生的众多事件中几个令人印象特别深刻的事件。

2020年——新十年的开始—— 其开局或许预示着这将是一段"疯狂"的旅程。新年伊始,美国和伊朗 关系恶化,中东局势动荡,油价上 涨,中美贸易协定发展,中国"新冠 肺炎"疫情,雅加达洪水,澳大利 亚丛林大火;而这些全部都发生在 2020年的第一个月份。

凯瑞奥信律师事务所新加坡办事处合伙人及亚洲诉讼,破产和重组业务负责人James Noble认为,飞速发展的21世纪的第二个十年里存在许多变数,将带来更多不确定和挑战。

"所涉因素相当多,但在我看来,其中造成影响最大的是中美贸易战,中国经济放缓,香港乱局,以及即将举行的美国大选;尤其是前三个,促使不良债务水平升高,使企业必须采取措施应对反应激进的债权人,"他说。

Noble认为,鉴于开曼群岛和英属维尔京群岛与中国大陆和美国都存在大量的出入境投资,这些措施中很大一部分都将在这两个司法管辖区实施。



Besides Hong Kong, it seems the global situation remains uncertain on multiple fronts as we head into this new decade.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (The EIU) recently published its predictions for the year ahead. In the report, the advisory firm says it believes that the coming year is likely to be more manageable for China but warns that the broader U.S.-China relationship remains on a course of increasing competition.

"In 2019, the U.S.-China trade war undoubtedly had an impact on the crossborder M&A deal flow. If the U.S. and China do find a workable compromise, we would expect that activity levels will improve," says Nathan Powell, partner and global head of corporate legal services in Ogier's Hong Kong office.

In the business world, the EIU says consumer-facing sectors remain the main bright spots even as growth opportunities are becoming more niche.

衡力斯律师事务所香港办事处 公司事务合伙人Raymond Ng表示, 客户已经对未来前景持谨慎态度。

Ng说:"由于全球呈现持续的不 确定性——从美中贸易战到最近的 美国和伊朗之间的紧张局势升级 我们看到,2020年伊始,一些客户 已经开始采取更为保守的做法。

"还有一些人担心香港的政治危 机可能还会继续,"他补充道。

香港示威者提出五大诉求,并 强调"五大诉求,缺一不可";由此看

# OFFSHORE

However, the outlook for China's technology industry is less optimistic by contrast. The EIU believes the cooling that was shown in the segment last year will extend into 2020.

They also named other black swans in the year ahead. This includes unrest in the Middle East; an unsteady oil market; financial strains that will continue to plague markets; and the failures of small companies and banks in 2019 possibly resulting in a major entity defaulting in 2020.

"Notwithstanding the challenges in 2019, capital markets activity was strong, and we anticipate that trend to continue into 2020. Our dispute resolution and insolvency teams in Hong Kong will continue to expand to meet client demand for complex British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Cayman work," says Powell.

#### SHELTER FROM THE STORM

The volatility of world events has definite ripple effects in different countries and markets.

But through it all, many believe offshore jurisdictions provide a safe harbour for international deals, listings, incorporations, and restructurings against market uncertainty.

"The BVI and Cayman Islands provide political stability and neutrality, with independent, transparent and business-minded governments and a legal system derived from English common law. They have secure economies without any exchange or investment repatriation controls," says Ng.

Furthermore, Ng believes these jurisdictions offer light but effective regulation from a business regulatory perspective.

"Except for certain businesses such as banking, hedge funds and insurance, the BVI and Cayman Islands do not seek to materially regulate the conduct of business of offshore companies, provided that they are not conducting substantial domestic business within the territories," says Ng.

That's always a plus for companies looking to seal deals without the burden of unnecessary red tape but in an environment with systemic protection in place. This situation is due to offshore jurisdictions having a keen understanding of what is needed to expedite and ease major trans-national business affairs.

"Offshore jurisdictions are seasoned veterans of high-profile, cross-border transactions and restructurings. Part of their appeal as financial services hubs is that they have stable economies, political certainty and the availability of laws and products which provide flexibility for achieving the desired commercial objectives," Noble says.

In addition, Noble says there are sophisticated and effective court systems in place for obtaining the necessary relief, when required.

"Those courts can be used to resolve disputes at the Topco level of the structure, which minimises the impact on the underlying business being conducted by the subsidiaries. For example, provisional liquidators, receivers or inspectors are frequently appointed over offshore entities to safeguard company assets and to investigate the company's affairs," he says.

"This can be especially helpful in places like the Cayman Islands where provisional liquidation provides a moratorium on claims against the company and will give it interim protection against disgruntled creditors and shareholders."

Essentially, Powell says the BVI and Cayman are "tried and tested jurisdictions that are familiar to market practitioners in the region, and they provide a robust, flexible and clear legal framework to structure transactions."

"Despite the prevailing global uncertainty, we have continued to see growth in our Asia revenue and strong demand across our practice areas," says Powell.

# **BENEFITS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

There is demand for a reason. In fact, some might say there are a number of reasons; many lawyers from offshore law firms can attest to how working in these jurisdictions has benefitted their clients.

"Most of the disputes that I am involved with arise out of some form of economic pressure on either the business or on the shareholders that own it. For 来,Ng对香港政治僵局的评估可能 是正确的。

除香港外,在进入21世纪的新 十年之际,全球形势似乎在多个方 面呈现不确定局面。

经济学人智库(Economist Intelligence Unit, EIU)最近公布了对未来一年的预测。该咨询公司在报告中称,未来的一年,中国的局面可能会更加可控,但同时警告说,中美关系将在更广泛的方面竞争加剧。

"2019年,中美贸易战无疑对 跨境并购交易流产生了影响。如果 中美两国确实找到了可行的折衷方 案,我们预计活动水平将会有所提 高,"奥杰律师事务所香港办事处 合伙人兼企业法律服务全球负责人 Nathan Powell说。

EIU表示,在商业领域中,尽管增长机会的范围越来越小,面向消费者的行业仍然是主要亮点。相比之下,中国科技产业的前景并不乐观。EIU认为,去年该领域的降温将延续至2020年。

他们还提到了未来一年中其他几个"黑天鹅"事件,其中包括:中东动荡局势,不稳定的石油市场,金融压力将继续困扰市场,2019年小型企业和银行的倒闭可能导致大型实体在2020年违约。

"尽管2019年面临挑战,但资本市场活动依然强劲,我们预计这一趋势将持续到2020年。我们在香港的争议解决和破产团队将继续扩大,以满足客户对复杂的英属维京群岛和开曼群岛工作的需求,"Powell说。

# 避难所

全球局势动荡在不同的国家和市场 都造成明确的涟漪反应。

但许多人自始至终都认为离岸 司法管辖区为国际交易、上市、公 司注册和重组提供了安全港,以应 对市场的不确定性。

"英属维尔京群岛和开曼群岛 具有独立、透明和拥有商业头脑的 政府以及源自英国普通法的法律体 系,因而提供了政治稳定和中立。 这些地区经济稳定,没有任何外 汇或投资汇回方面的管制,"Ng说 道。

此外,Ng认为,就商业监管而 言,这些司法管辖区实施灵活而有 效的监管。 example, I recently helped a company block actions taken by an unhappy shareholder to try and force a buy-out of their shares," says Noble of his experiences.

"In another case, I successfully challenged an injunction that had been brought to prevent a company from undertaking certain activities, the effect of which would have been crippling to the business."

Other fringe benefits make offshore jurisdictions a worthwhile consideration.

For starters, working in offshore jurisdictions can simplify some potentially complicated restructuring.

"We have been advising on some significant group reorganisations involving the migration and consolidation of various subsidiary holding companies to streamline the number of offshore jurisdictions used," says Powell.

"For large international groups with complex structures, rationalising the group structure into fewer jurisdictions has reduced compliance costs and management time. We have seen the continued use of offshore structures in these types of reorganisation as they still offer a robust and familiar legal framework."

And, of course, there are the tax benefits offshore locations are known for.

"As they are tax neutral jurisdictions, no taxes would be imposed in the BVI or Cayman Islands on transactions involving BVI or Cayman Islands companies," says Ng.

Nonetheless, he recommends that prospective clients seek tax advice on their tax position, as any income received from BVI or Cayman Islands companies in the form of dividends may be subject to tax in the jurisdiction in which the shareholder is a tax resident.

# **GREATER FLEXIBILITY**

That's not the only thing that prospective clients need to be aware of regarding operating offshore.

"Operating offshore provides clients with a much greater degree of flexibility in how they set up their business. However, clients should also be aware that by using offshore entities in their structures, they need to be prepared to resolve any issues which

arise in the offshore courts," says Carey Olsen's Noble.

The offshore regulations also continue to evolve with the times to better serve and protect those that operate within them.

"Both the BVI and Cayman continue to adopt and update legislation to ensure that they adhere to the very best international regulatory practice and standards. Last year saw the intro-

"Both the BVI and Cayman continue to adopt and update legislation to ensure that they adhere to the very best international regulatory practice and standards."

- Nathan Powell, Ogier

"英属维尔京群岛和开曼群岛都在不断进行新的立法并对现有法律进行更新,以确保符合最佳国际监管惯例和标准。"

- Nathan Powell, 奥杰律师事务所

duction of economic substance legislation in the BVI and Cayman and data protection rules in Cayman with legislation to follow this year in the BVI," says Powell.

He claims his team has kept in step with the developments and spent time ensuring that clients are up to speed on these developments and prepared for any changes that are required.

"As a result, clients have generally

"除了银行、对冲基金和保险等业务外,英属维尔京群岛和开曼群岛没有采取任何措施对离岸公司的业务行为进行实质性的监管,但前提是这些企业不能在离岸司法管辖区内开展实质性的国内业务,"Ng说。

没有不必要的繁文缛节,却拥有规范的保护系统,这为希望顺利达成交易的企业提供了理想的环境;之所以能够形成这样的条件,是由于离岸司法管辖区对于如何加快和简化重大跨国业务相关的事务有着深刻的了解。

"离岸司法管辖区在重大的跨境 交易和重组方面拥有丰富的经验; 之所以能够成为金融服务中心,部 分原因在于其具有稳定的经济、政 治确定性以及行之有效的法律和可 行的产品,这些为实现预定的商业 目标提供了灵活性,"Noble说。

此外,离岸司法管辖区还拥有成熟而有效的法院系统,可以在需要时获得必要的救济,Noble补充道。

"这些法院可用于解决结构顶层的争议,从而将对于子公司所开展的基础业务的影响降至最低。例如,临时清算人、接管人或检查人员经常被任命到离岸实体,以保护公司资产并调查公司事务,"他说。

"这在开曼群岛这样的地方特别 实用,因为临时清算可以暂停对公 司的债权,并将为公司提供临时保 护,使其免于受到心怀不满的债权 人和股东的侵害。"

基本上来说,英属维尔京群岛和开曼群岛是"经过考验的司法管辖区,为该地区市场从业人员所熟悉,而且为构建交易提供了稳健、灵活而又明确的法律框架,"Powell说道。

"虽然全球普遍存在不确定性,但我们看到,我们的亚洲收入持续增长,并且在我们所有的业务领域都存在强劲的需求,"Powell表示。

# 好处和注意事项

有需求是有原因的。有些人可能会 说原因是多方面的。离岸律师事务 所的许多律师们可以证实,他们在 离岸司法管辖区的工作令他们的客 户受益。

"我所接触的大多数纠纷都是由 于企业或者拥有企业的股东受到某

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been able to adapt quickly and without undue impact on their operations," says Powell. "Clients need to understand these developments and how to deal with any changes with minimal impact."

Powell believes lawyers need to work closely with clients to help them understand and navigate the impact of the economic substance legislation and the new data protection rules.

Of course, offshore law firms are the main source of advice for companies that have any offshore dealings.

"Offshore firms are well placed to advise companies on better ways to arrange their affairs as well as to address complex and contentious issues which occur in their cross-border operations," says Noble.

"Alternatively, companies may have claims against offshore entities that can't progress because of a lack of available information about those entities, such as the identity of their directors, shareholders or assets. In those situations, offshore litigators have an array of tools at their disposal for obtaining that information, which can be particularly useful for breach of fiduciary duty claims, conspiracy claims, and asset tracing," he adds.

For Ng, there are other reasons why companies should consider the services of offshore law firms.

"Offshore jurisdictions remain popular destinations for those seeking flexibility and certainty when it comes to establishing a company, fund or trust and, as a result, we are continuing to see a surge in demand for offshore legal services," he says.

Offshore law firms are quickly growing alongside their clientele to meet all their needs.

"Clients are becoming increasingly sophisticated and offshore firms have responded by offering a full spectrum of services to meet all of their legal needs, including banking and finance, corporate, investment funds, litigation, insolvency and restructuring, private wealth, and regulatory affairs and tax," says Harneys' Ng, who adds that his firm prides itself on being able to provide a true "one-stop" service to all of their clients. ©

种形式的经济压力。例如,我最近帮助一家公司阻止了一位不满的股东采取行动——这位股东试图强行收购他们的股票,"Noble以他的亲身经历告诉记者。

"在另一个案例中,我成功地挑战了一项阻止一家公司开展某些活动的禁令,该禁令的后果将会对该公司的业务造成损害。"

此外,离岸司法管辖区还拥有 其他的附带福利。

首先,在离岸司法管辖区可以 简化一些潜在的复杂重组。

"我们一直在为一些大的集团重组业务提供法律咨询服务,这些重组活动涉及到各子公司的迁移和合并,从而精简所使用的离岸司法管辖区的数量,"Powell说。

"对于结构复杂的大型跨国集团,简化集团结构,减少所涉及的司法管辖区,能够降低合规成本和减少管理时间。根据我们以往的经验,这些类型的重组中往往使用离岸结构,因为这样的结构能够提供稳健、常见的的法律框架。"

当然,离岸地区的税收优惠也 是众所周知的。

"由于是税务中立的司法管辖区,因此在英属维尔京群岛或开曼群岛,不会对涉及英属维尔京群岛或开曼群岛注册的公司的交易进行征税,"Ng说。

虽然如此,他还是建议潜在客户就其税务状况寻求税务方面的建议,因为以股息形式从英属维尔京群岛或开曼群岛公司获得的任何收入都有可能需要在股东作为税收居民的司法管辖区纳税。

# 更大的灵活性

但税务方面的问题并不是潜在客户 在进行离岸经营时需要注意的唯一 问题。

"离岸经营为客户在其业务方面 提供了更大程度的灵活性。然而客 户还应该注意,在其结构中使用离 岸实体,他们就需要做好准备应对 任何与离岸法院相关的问题,"凯瑞 奥信的Noble说。

离岸地区的监管政策也随着时代的发展而不断发展,旨在为该地区的经营者提供更好地服务和保障。

"英属维尔京群岛和开曼群岛都 在不断进行新的立法并对现有法律 进行更新,以确保符合最佳国际监 管惯例和标准。去年,英属维尔京群岛和开曼群岛均引入了经济实质法,开曼群岛还引入了数据保护规则,今年在英属维尔京群岛也将实施相关立法,"Powell说。

他表示其团队与离岸地区的发展保持同步,并且花时间确保其客户能够跟上这些发展的速度,准备好按照要求作出改变。

"因此,我们的客户通常能够迅速适应变化,而不会对其运营造成不利影响。客户们需要了解这些发展,以及如何应对由此带来的变化,从而把影响降到最低,"Powell说。

Powell认为,律师需要与客户密切合作,帮助他们了解和掌握经济实质法和新数据保护规则所带来的影响。

对于进行离岸交易的公司来说,离岸律师事务所当然是他们主要的咨询服务提供者。

"离岸律所有全备的能力为企业提供建议,帮助他们更好地安排事务,解决其跨境业务中出现的复杂、有争议的问题,"Noble说。

"又或者企业可能需要对离岸实体提出索赔,但由于缺乏这些东域的可用信息,例如其董事、股东等的身份,因而无法取得进展。在这种情况下,离岸诉讼律师可息,对在违反信托义务索赔,共谋指充的追查资产方面尤为有用,"他补充说。

Ng表示,企业还可以在其他方面寻求离岸律师事务所的服务和帮助。

他说:"谈到设立公司、基金或信托机构,对于那些寻求灵活性和确定性的人来说,离岸司法管辖区仍然是热门的目的地;因此,我们看到对离岸法律服务的需求持续大幅增加。"

离岸律师事务所与其客户一起 迅速成长,旨在满足他们的所有需 求。

衡力斯的Ng说:"面对越来越老练的客户,离岸律所做出务产,离岸律所做出务产,通过提供全方位的服务上,所有的法律需求,包括银行,金融,公司,投资基金,诉讼管和重组,私人财富以及监管和重组,私人财富的也又补充,衡力斯以能够为其所有的客户提供真正的"一站式"服务而感到自豪。◎

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# The 17th Annual ALB

Nomination for SSQ ALB China Law Awards 2020 is underway. Nominate your firm/team to win the awards which symbolizes the leading position of Chinese legal profession!

SSQ 二零二零年 ALB 中国法律大奖提名正在进行中。立即提名您的律所或法务团队,去赢得象征着中国法律界领先地位的奖项!

Recognizing your organization's accomplishments over the past year, ALB would like to invite you to join the SSQ ALB China Law Awards 2020 and nominate your own legal team or that of another organization that you have worked with in the past, for one or more of the 46 categories we will be presenting on the awards night. Joining the nomination process and attending the awarding ceremony are ideal opportunities for law firms and in-house teams not only to establish competitive networks, but also to showcase their expertise and leading position in the legal community.

此次 SSQ ALB 中国法律大家涵盖 46 个奖项,将由数十名专业评审评选出获奖者。您可以提名自己的团队、或者提名在过去一年中 与您有工作交集的其它组织或团队,去赢得46个奖项中的一个或多个奖项。对于律师事务所和公司法务组来说,参与提名并出席 颁奖盛典不仅仅可以帮助您建立起极具竞争力的人脉资源,同时也可以向整个法律界展示您及您团队的专业程度与领先地位。

> For more information, kindly visit 更多活动信息欢迎访问本次活动页面 https://www.legalbusinessonline.com/awards/china-law-awards-2020

Submission Enquiries 报名事宜请联系

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