



HERBERT
SMITH
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HANNAH CASSIDY

PARTNER, HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
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[Hong Kong](#)

Hannah heads the Financial Services Regulatory practice in Asia, advising clients on contentious and non-contentious matters.

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BACKGROUND

Hannah is qualified as a solicitor in Hong Kong (2017) and England and Wales (2008). She trained with Herbert Smith Freehills in London and moved to Hong Kong in 2016.

LATEST INSIGHTS

KEY SERVICES

Financial Services Regulatory
Enforcement and Investigations

KEY SECTORS

Banks
Banks and other Financial Institutions

EXPERIENCE

Hannah helps international and regional financial institutions with contentious regulatory cases and cross-border investigations involving, for example, systems and controls breaches, anti-money laundering failures and insider dealing.

She has particular expertise in advising clients on the conduct of high profile board-led, independent investigations, particularly in relation to culture and conduct.

Hannah's team regularly leads discussions with regulators on behalf of the financial services industry in relation to regulatory reform initiatives. This includes working closely with leading industry bodies, including ASIFMA and AIMA.

Hannah also regularly advises clients on regulatory developments, including in relation to licensing, senior management accountability and fintech. She is leading the firm's thought leadership efforts in the Asia-Pacific region on benchmark reforms, including the litigation and regulatory risks arising from IBOR discontinuation.

Hannah is a co-chair of the firm's Global Banks Sector Group, is a member of Women in Finance Asia and regularly speaks on industry panels.

Hannah's experience includes advising:

- the Hong Kong branch of an international bank on interactions with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) in relation to anti-money laundering and counter-financing terrorism (AML/CFT) compliance
- a large Chinese financial institution on an investigation by the Hong Kong Securities & Futures Commission (SFC) into its role as an IPO sponsor
- the board of a Hong Kong listed company on an independent investigation into alleged misconduct by former senior management
- a hedge fund on its defense in the context of SFC regulatory enforcement proceedings relating to alleged systems and controls breaches around short-selling
- a global fintech company in relation to a multi-jurisdictional investigation of corporate governance issues, involving regulatory interactions in Hong Kong, Singapore and other Asia-Pacific jurisdictions
- a US investment bank in the context of a SFC investigation into suspicious trading activities at its Hong Kong branch
- a global private bank on an investigation in relation to issues arising from 1MDB
- a Korean corporation on the setup of cryptocurrency exchanges globally
- a global hedge fund on Hong Kong licensing and regulatory self-reporting issues

MARKET RECOGNITION

Chambers Asia Pacific notes:

Hannah Cassidy enters the rankings for both contentious and non-contentious work after winning praise from clients and other market sources, with one client describing her as *“very impressive, fantastic to deal with, responsive, commercial and practical”*.

Hannah is ranked Band 4 in the Chambers Asia Pacific 2021 Contentious Regulatory category and Up and Coming in the Non-Contentious Regulatory category (Financial Services International Firms: China).

“Key name in contentious regulatory work” and *“Next Generation Partner”* – Legal 500.