

HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS EXPANDS CHINA FINANCE PRACTICE WITH HIRE OF PARTNER ELLEN MAO 马艾伦 马艾伦 马艾伦马艾伦

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News

Leading international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills has hired banking partner [Ellen Mao](#) as part of its continued expansion in Asia.

An alumna of Herbert Smith Freehills and fluent in Mandarin, Ellen advises international, Asian and particularly China clients on syndicated lending, cross-border financing, insolvency work and complex project financing.

"Ellen has a strong record of advising both international and Chinese banks and financial institutions," said [Adrian Cheng](#), Herbert Smith Freehills' Asia head of finance. "Her technical expertise combined with her blend of international and China experience make her an excellent addition to our team."

Ellen will be based in Hong Kong but will work with the firm's corporate, infrastructure, energy and finance practices across Asia and beyond, working locally alongside established Hong Kong partner [Alexander Aitken](#).

"Ellen's outstanding combination of international and Chinese finance experience will help us to meet growing client demand, especially from the host of significant financial institutions based in Greater China," said Asia managing partner [May Tai](#). "She also adds vital restructuring expertise to our Asia practice, complementing our established lending offering to clients."

ABOUT ELLEN

A Shanghai native, Ellen is fluent in Mandarin and English. She received a bachelor's degree in law from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, a master's degree in law from Fudan University, and a master's degree in law from Columbia University in New York.

Ellen started her career as an associate at JunHe Law Offices in Shanghai, before joining Clifford Chance in 2010. She joined Herbert Smith Freehills in Hong Kong in 2017, and moved to Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison as counsel in late 2020.

She was admitted to the PRC Bar in 2009 (non-practicing) and to the New York State Bar in 2016, and qualified in England & Wales in 2020.

Ellen's title in Hong Kong will be *Senior Foreign Registered Lawyer - USA - New York* to meet local regulatory requirements.

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Ellen Mao
Adrian Cheng
Alexander Aitken
May Tai

KEY CONTACTS

If you have any questions, or would like to know how this might affect your business, phone, or email these key contacts.



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