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City: Hong Kong

Practices: International Arbitration, Civil & Commercial
Litigation, Shipping and Commodities, Insolvency and
Bankruptcy, Crypto & Digital Assets Disputes

Basic Information

Edward Liu is a highly accomplished lawyer with qualifications as a solicitor in Hong Kong SAR, England & Wales, British Virgin Islands and as a lawyer in the People's Republic of China. He is widely recognised as a leading expert in commercial dispute resolution, specialising in international arbitration and commercial litigation. In July 2022, Edward received the Medal of Honour from the Hong Kong SAR Government in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development and promotion of legal, arbitration, and dispute resolution services in Hong Kong, particularly in the field of transportation. Since 2020, Edward has consistently been recommended by renowned legal directories such as Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500, China Business Law Journal, Asia Business Legal, and Lloyd's List as a leading lawyer in both dispute resolution and shipping practices.

Edward's expertise spans a wide range of international commercial disputes, including areas such as trade and commodities, energy and offshore projects, shipping and shipbuilding, shareholder disputes, international investment (especially related to Belt & Road projects), construction and infrastructure, commercial fraud, insolvency and restructuring, crypto & digital assets disputes, regulatory investigations, international sanctions, and the global enforcement of judgments and arbitration awards. Edward represents a diverse clientele, including financial institutions, insurance companies, multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations, Chinese state-owned enterprises, as well as major shipping and commodities companies. He handles complex cross-border commercial disputes in courts located in Hong Kong, London, and international tribunals. Additionally, Edward provides advisory services to banks, insurers, and trading companies on non-contentious matters related to asset finance, trade finance, and shipping finance.

Edward is highly experienced in managing complex disputes involving cryptocurrency and digital assets, including those arising from the sale of cryptocurrencies, NFTs, and breaches of contracts with crypto platforms. He has extensive expertise in addressing issues related to civil fraud, mis-selling, outstanding debts, and disputes over crypto transactions. Edward is particularly adept at resolving cryptocurrency and digital asset disputes through both arbitration and court litigation, ensuring effective and tailored solutions for the clients.

In the field of dry shipping, Edward possesses extensive experience in handling various types of claims, including those arising from charterparties, bills of lading, long-term contracts of affreightment, sale of second-hand vessels, marine insurance, collisions, groundings, salvage and general average, ship arrests, and jurisdictional challenges. He has also been involved in numerous shipbuilding cases involving Chinese shipyards. As the principal representative of the International Chamber of Shipping (China) Liaison Office and Shanghai Representative Office, Edward actively contributes to discussions and the formulation of conventions and regulations within the United Nations International Maritime Organization. He is responsible for communication and coordination with the Chinese government and

shipping organizations regarding policies and measures in the maritime industry.

Arbitration and Mediation Experience

• Arbitrator Qualifications

Edward Liu is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) and a member of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). He was also a member of the ICCA Host Committee for the 26th ICCA Congress held in Hong Kong in 2024.

Edward serves as an arbitrator on the panels or lists of the following institutions:

- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)
- Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre (arbitrateAD)
- Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA)
- Asia International Arbitration Centre (AIAC)
- Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA)
- Shanghai International Arbitration Centre (SHIAC)
- Beijing International Arbitration Court (BIAC)
- Hainan International Arbitration Court (HIAC)
- Dalian International Arbitration Court (DIAC)
- Tianjin Arbitration Commission (TJAC)
- Nanjing Arbitration Commission (NJAC)
- South China (Hong Kong) International Arbitration Center (SCIAHK)
- China Maritime Arbitration Commission (CMAC)
- Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration Group (HKMAG)
- London Maritime Arbitrators' Association (LMAA)
- Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA)
- AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO HKRAC) and its Sports Arbitrators Panel
- eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre (eBRAM)
- Great Bay Area Arbitrator Panel (GBA Arbitrator Panel)

Since 2018, Edward has accepted appointments as arbitrator in more than 40 cases, including as sole arbitrator, under the rules of HKIAC, LMAA, HKMAG, UNCITRAL, SCIA and SCMA, as well as ad hoc arbitrations. He has rendered 25 arbitral awards to date in international and cross-border disputes.

• Mediator Qualifications

Edward is an accredited mediator with the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL). He also serves as a mediator with:

- eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre
- APEC Panel of Neutrals

On 1 May 2026, Edward was designated by the Government of the People's Republic of China and included in the PANEL OF General Mediators of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed). He was previously invited to contribute to the drafting and formulation of the Investment and Commercial Mediation Rules for the International Organisation for Mediation (IOMed).

Edward actively contributes to the field of law through his roles as an editorial member of the renowned English shipping law newsletter, Lloyd's Shipping & Trade Law, and as a special contributor to the leading English arbitration law newsletter, Arbitration Law Monthly. He holds positions as an adjunct professor at City University of Hong Kong,

and a visiting professor at Shanghai Maritime University and Tianjin Foreign Studies University.

Professional History

Edward Liu joined Haiwen in August 2022 as partner. Before joining Haiwen, he was a partner of Hill Dickinson Hong Kong, and also worked as senior associate and associate at Reed Smith Richards Butler and DLA Piper.

Experience Highlights

International Commercial Arbitration

- ICC Singapore Arbitration (2025): Representing two Chinese investment companies in defending a shareholder joint venture dispute initiated by a well-known American multinational technology company in Singapore. The amount in dispute is nearly USD 20 million
- ICC Singapore Arbitration (2025): Representing a Middle Eastern engineering and manufacturing company in a payment and performance dispute arising out of a photovoltaic power plant project in Abu Dhabi, in connection with a Chinese company. The amount in dispute exceeds USD 3 million
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing three companies in a share repurchase dispute arising from the target company's failure to complete an IPO or De-SPAC transaction. The amount in dispute exceeds USD 100 million
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing an international travel agency in an arbitration arising from an Investor Rights Agreement and Articles of Association, raising jurisdictional objections and substantive defenses. The amount in dispute exceeds USD 50 million
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing a Hong Kong investment company in an arbitration over the counterparty's failure to fulfill a repurchase obligation. The amount in dispute exceeds USD 60 million
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing a client in a share repurchase dispute, where the repurchase obligation was not fulfilled. The amount in dispute exceeds USD 36 million, and facilitated settlement discussions between the parties
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing a client in an arbitration arising from a Share Exchange Agreement and Indemnity Agreement, raising jurisdictional and substantive defenses. The amount in dispute exceeds USD 20 million
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): representing an investment company in a complex cross-border dispute with a personal guarantor involving a US\$60 million senior secured exchangeable notes
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): acting for a world-leading film entertainment studio against a Chinese animation studio regarding unpaid film rental investment proceeds, and successfully facilitated early settlement negotiations between the parties, which ultimately led to a settlement
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): acting for a leading semiconductor company against a subsidiary of a Singapore-listed technology group in relation to a dispute arising out of a semiconductor chip and prototype manufacturing framework agreement
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): advising the Asia private equity arm of a global financial institution in relation to a failed IPO of a Chinese health and beauty group and its related parties and redemption defaults under a Share Subscription Agreement, which also involved cross-border civil and potential criminal proceedings in Hong Kong and Mainland China
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): representing a consortium of institutional investors in a high-value dispute arising from their equity investment in a Chinese biopharmaceutical company, involving exercise of redemption rights and advising on enforceability of a series of most-favoured-nation clauses
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): defending a prominent cryptocurrency service platform provider and a cryptocurrency mining service provider in an arbitration and an emergency arbitration involving injunctive reliefs and a claim exceeding USD30 million arising out of cryptocurrency and crypto machines lending and security agreements

- ICC Emergency Arbitration (2024): advising a leading media and video game company in resisting a prohibitory injunction application to release certain products in the market. The arbitration applies ICC procedural rules and the governing law is New York law
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): defending a cryptocurrency logistics service provider and its director against a prominent crypto mining company for alleged breach of contract for cryptocurrency transportation in the sum of around US\$10 million. The dispute involves complex geopolitical issues in the region and procedural issues including misjoinder of parties
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): acting for a listed contractor against its subcontractor for more than HKD10 million claims arising from termination of a construction contract
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): defending a group of multinational asset companies against another group of companies in a complex commercial arbitration arising from a series of intercompany loans in more than USD400 million, which is complicated by the fact that the parties originally belonged to the same company group with the claimants undergoing private receivership shortly before the arbitration
- HKIAC Arbitration (2023): defending a prominent Chinese telecommunications company and its subsidiaries in multiple arbitrations filed against it by various international banks for sums ranging from USD25 million to USD 100 million; and successfully resisted applications for expedited arbitration and consolidation of arbitrations
- HKIAC Arbitration (2023): acting for a listing company and its subsidiary in defending a claim of around USD3 million arising out of an investment agreement
- HKIAC Arbitration (2022): acting for a leading Chinese investment management company in filing a claim for more than US\$260 million against the counterparty for failure to pay the purchase price of the client's shares in a Cayman Islands fund under a call and put option agreement; acting for the client in applying for interim measures in Mainland China to freeze the counterparty's assets in Mainland China, in support of the arbitration in Hong Kong; also advising clients on claims against the funds, fund directors and fund managers for negligent management of funds and/or dissipation of fund assets
- HKIAC Arbitration (2022): advising and filing a claim on behalf of the client in relation to a loss of over \$5 million, resulting from Binance's delay in depositing the client's Luna coins into his account, and working with cryptocurrency experts to assess the amount of lost profits suffered by the client in different trading scenarios
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2021): Acting for a Hong Kong main contractor to deal with unpaid construction costs resulting from the employer's early termination of the construction contract on alleged delay and various defective issues for construction of luxury villa in Hong Kong, the total amount of claim was more than HKD70 million
- HKIAC Arbitration (2021): Advising the Chinese company on its challenge to the validity of an arbitration agreement under Hong Kong law and the jurisdiction of the tribunal to hear the arbitration commenced by a Germany company under a contract of supply of equipment for a sum of more than EUR1.1 million
- HKIAC Arbitration (2019): successfully acted for owners in respect of disputes arising out of a charterparty and the subsequent settlement agreement with charterers. More importantly, we were the first one in Hong Kong to successfully obtain an order from the Shanghai Maritime Court for interim measures in aid of an arbitration administered by the HKIAC, immediately seizing on a new mainland-Hong Kong arrangement concerning mutual assistance in interim measures for arbitration proceedings that came into effect on 1 October 2019
- LCIA Arbitration (2016): acted for a large state-owned oil and gas company defending a claim of a multi-million dollar sum brought by an UAE based company and the disputes involved the supply of high value, complex, machinery

Commercial Litigation

- Hong Kong High Court – HCCW 52/2025: acting for a Chinese education consultancy company in initiating winding-up proceedings in the Hong Kong Court in relation to an outstanding loan owed by a Hong Kong education services

company, and assisted the client in handling the liquidation and creditor recovery proceedings

- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 635/2025: acting for our clients in recovering a USD 164 million loan with interests from a personal guarantor after the clients were awarded a judgment sum of the same amount in the BVI from the borrower following the borrower's default in repayment of the relevant loan and interests
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 542/2025: acting for the clients in recovering an aggregate sum of over RMB 1.3 billion from the corporate guarantors after the clients were awarded a judgment debt of the same amount from the Beijing Financial Court against the borrower
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 2551/2024: acting for a wholly owned subsidiary of a state-owned financial institution to recover a loan exceeding HKD 750,000,000 from a high-profile businessman with significant business interests across Mainland China, Singapore and Hong Kong, spanning industries such as hospitality, real estate, and vineyards
- Hong Kong High Court – HCCT 155/2024: the clients secured a credit loan facility from a leading Mainland Chinese bank, while its parent company acted as the guarantor. The said Mainland Chinese bank issued a statutory demand pursuant to the relevant ordinances against the clients claiming an alleged sum of over USD 93 million. However, given that the relevant Facility Agreement requires that the dispute be resolved via arbitration, we strategically advised our clients to initiate arbitration proceedings against the bank, which formed the basis of this anti-suit injunction application
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1603/2024: defending listed companies against complex claims of force majeure, frustration and unjust enrichment and restitution of a USD2 million investment arising from the production of a high-profile Hollywood movie
- Hong Kong High Court – HCB 3178/2024: acting for a bank against the Chairman of a listed company in recovering a debt in more than HK\$300 million arising from complicated loan and guarantee agreements
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1553/2023: acting for an investment company against a bank for breach of contract and fiduciary duties by freezing the client's corporate account and refusing to execute valid payment instructions based on unverified third-party claims without conducting appropriate due diligence
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1939/2023: acting for a prominent commodities trading company in recovering its consignment of precious metals amounting to USD6 million which had been fraudulently re-directed to an unauthorized consignee
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 2050/2023: defending a Hong Kong creditor which had obtained a charging order over two Vessels of a debtor, against another creditor's claims that our clients did not act in compliance with charging order
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1629/2023: acting for a prominent Chinese investment company in obtaining interim injunction against its former employee prohibiting the said former employee from disclosing the confidential information of the company
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1961/2023: acting for a former director of a distinguished financial firm, defending against claims of an alleged breach of fiduciary duty and the demand for the return of a bonus exceeding HKD20 million
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1887/2020: acting for a leading investment firm in their efforts to recover a debt for over HKD20 million by imposing charging order on the debtor's shares within a publicly listed company
- Hong Kong High Court – HCCW 365/2022: representing Chinese bank creditors in enforcing creditors' rights in a liquidation case involving more than HK\$340 million, and representing creditors in commencing legal actions against collateral and personal guarantees provided by debtors
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1100/2022; HCSD 36/2022: acting for a state-owned bank as creditor/lender in Hong Kong to successfully oppose the default borrower's application for an interim injunction application to prevent the bank to issue a winding up petition against the borrower with costs be to the client; to oppose the default

guarantor' s application to set aside THE statutory demand against him; and the loan amount was more HK\$200 million

- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 681 / 2020: acting for a lead creditor bank in Hong Kong in applying for summary judgment against borrower and guarantor for a loan over US\$45 million
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1171/2022: acting for a seller to claim at least HK\$6 million against Christie' s Hong Kong Limited for mishandling the sale of her painting
- Hong Kong High Court (2022): acting for multiple creditors to enforce arbitral awards and other interim reliefs against a mastermind of fraud and its alter egos for a claim over RMB170 million
- Hong Kong High Court (2022): acting for a Hong Kong company as the mortgagee having the right to foreclose or redeem the mortgages and to claim for relief for the purpose of securing repayment of the underlying debt in a sum of more than RMB100 million
- Hong Kong High Court - HCCW 379/2021: acting for a Hong Kong aviation spare company and its former shareholders as opposing creditors to resist the conversion of a voluntary creditor' s liquidation to a compulsory winding up of the company applied by a major European airway company for disputes in a sum of more than EUR10 million
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1711/2021: assisting the PRC clients in enforcing an arbitral award issued by the Shanghai Arbitration Commission arbitral tribunal as a Hong Kong judgment for a totalling sum of more than RMB185 million. As part of the enforcement proceedings, bringing a HCAJ Kong court action under s.60 of the Hong Kong Conveyancing and Property Ordinance to set aside an assignment of a Hong Kong property for a stated consideration of HKD33 million from the award debtor to his son
- London High Court – QB-2021-004480: successfully secured an urgent Mareva injunction from English High Court to freeze the bank account and disclosure order against the recipient bank, while acting for a Hong Kong company as a victim who had been deceived to transfer about 3 million US dollars from Hong Kong to a virtual bank account in the UK in the context of email fraud, and ultimately obtained the refund of the money through summary judgment
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1160/2021: acting for an investor in seeking damages against a SFC-licensed investment advisory firm for various false representations and breach of tortious duties in inducing to invest in a HK-listed company; also acting for the investor in his capacity as a creditor in the liquidation of that HK-listed company
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1887/2020: acted for a security company to recover debt from mainland Chinese individual and apply for service of court documents out of the jurisdiction of Hong Kong
- Changfeng Shipping Holdings Limited –v- Sinoriches Enterprises Co., Limited [2020] HKCFI 2703: acted for London arbitral award creditor and successfully obtained leave from the court to serve oral examination orders made under O.48, Rule of High Court (Cap 4A) on officers of award debtor out of the Hong Kong jurisdiction; established Hong Kong law on the oral examination of foreign officers of local judgment debtors
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 1964/2020; HCA2021/2020: acted for a Mainland Chinese steel manufacturing giant in several matters involving their payment default and that of their Hong Kong-listed subsidiary in respect of bonds valued at an excess of HK\$710m in aggregate; advised the debtor about the enforcement action taken out by the creditors against the corporate and personal guarantees given by related persons
- Hong Kong High Court – HCA 145/2020; HCA 162/2020: acted for a PRC state-owned enterprise in defending claims for recovery of mistakenly transferred funds and successfully setting aside a Mareva injunction order against the client

Shipping & Commodities Arbitration & Litigation

- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing the cargo owner in a dispute under an FOB sale contract, pursuing damages against the buyer who refused to accept the cargo, and assisting the cargo owner in regaining possession of the goods at the discharge port. The case presents both legal and commercial challenges, including the owner's right to terminate

the contract, recovery of possession, and managing expenses. The buyer also refused to pay demurrage charges as the charterer, leading to the shipowner exercising a lien over the cargo, further complicating the matter. The amount in dispute exceeds USD 3 million

- Hong Kong Arbitration (2025): Representing the shipowner in a dispute under a charterparty, claiming demurrage and expenses (including pilotage and port charges) from the charterer. Given that the charterer is a Hong Kong trading entity with no substantial assets, the case involves a thorough legal and commercial assessment of whether to pursue arbitration against the charterer
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing a ship management and operations company in a claim against a shipyard for unpaid referral fees exceeding USD 5 million under a cooperation agreement. The case involves complexities related to U.S. economic sanctions
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2025): Representing the shipowner in a charterparty dispute to recover unpaid hire and bunker charges from the charterer, who provided misleading contact information
- HKIAC Arbitration (2025): Representing a local bunker supplier in a dispute arising from a bunker supply agreement, pursuing cancellation fees and damages from a buyer who unilaterally terminated the agreement. The case involves technical issues related to the measurement of bunker quantity and quality
- Hong Kong High Court (HCAJ 7/2025): Representing the shipowner in defending a claim brought by a terminal owner following a collision incident. The terminal owner had arrested the client's vessel as security for its claim. We acted swiftly to secure the vessel's release, minimizing disruption to the client's operations. The case required legal assessment of the terminal owner's recoverable loss, as the repairs improved the overall condition of the berth
- Hong Kong High Court (HCCT 34/2025): Representing the charterer in a challenge against an arbitral award before the Hong Kong court, on the ground of an error of law by the tribunal. The case raises a novel legal issue regarding the scope of the Hong Kong court's review of a tribunal's decision on English law, which is treated as a question of fact. This case has significant implications for the development of arbitration-related appeals in Hong Kong, particularly in cross-border disputes involving foreign law
- Criminal Matter (2025): Representing the warehouse owner in two separate investigations: one involving a fatal accident at the warehouse, and another concerning a suspected breach of import/export regulations by the warehouse's customer. These matters involve highly sensitive issues relating to criminal liability in the local logistics industry and require detailed factual and legal analysis, including assessment of the implications of disclosing documents and information to local law enforcement authorities
- Hong Kong High Court (HCCT 58/2025): Representing the shipowner in enforcing an LMAA arbitral award against the charterer in Hong Kong. The case involves challenges in identifying and tracing the charterer's assets within the jurisdiction, and highlights our capabilities in enforcing foreign arbitral awards, particularly where asset tracing and enforcement strategies are required
- Hong Kong High Court (HCCT 90/2024): Following a successful arbitration, we continued to assist the shipowner in enforcing the award in Hong Kong, including applying for a garnishee order and examining the directors of the charterer in court. We also worked closely with our Shanghai office to enforce the arbitral award against the charterer's subsidiary in Mainland China. The case involves strategic analysis and coordination across multiple Haiwen offices to maximize enforcement outcomes for the client
- Hong Kong High Court – ESCC 3035/2024: acting for the Master in defending a criminal charge of endangering the safety of others, contrary to section 72 of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap. 313). The charge arose out of a fatal collision incident in which the Master of another vessel was thrown overboard and died
- Hong Kong High Court – HCCT 58/2025: represented the Owner in enforcing an arbitration award against the Charterer; advised and assisted the Owner in successfully enforcing the award in Hong Kong, including asset identification and tracing of the Charterer's assets within the jurisdiction

- Shanghai Maritime Arbitration (2024): acting for the Owner in a claim against the Charterer for unpaid freight and demurrage. The arbitration was conducted bilingually (Chinese and English), seated in Shanghai, governed by English law, and administered under the HKMAG Rules of Arbitration. This case was the first-ever overseas ad hoc maritime arbitration conducted in Mainland China and was widely recognised as a landmark in the development of maritime arbitration in the region. The North Bund International Shipping Forum described it as a milestone case, and Xinhua News Agency listed it among the “Top Ten Events of the Shanghai International Shipping Center” for 2024
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2024): acting for the shipper in pursuing a claim against the carrier under a bill of lading for damages resulting from carrier’s deviation and failure to provide a seaworthy vessel. This complicated legal dispute involves the unsettled legal principles regarding the applicability of package limitation provided by the Hague-Visby Rules in a deviation claim.
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2024): acting for the charterers in pursuing a claim against the owners under a voyage charterparty in the sum of around US\$2 million. The dispute involves the owners’ liability in providing an unseaworthy vessel, improperly stowing the cargo on vessel in contravention of the Port State Control (PSC) regulations and failing to deliver the cargo to the discharge port within reasonable time.
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2024): acting for the bareboat charterers in defending a claim of non-payment of hire in the sum of around US\$8 million. This dispute also involves the evaluation of legal effect of various sanction regimes to the contract
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2024): acting for owners to recover demurrage and deadfreight in the sum of around US\$4.5 million from charterers, a subsidiary of a state-owned enterprise
- Hong Kong High Court (2024): A vessel was detained by the Hong Kong Marine Department in Hong Kong waters, represented a Canadian cargo owner to recover the cargo loaded on the vessel
- LMAA Arbitration (2024): acting for the seller of the vessel to recover a loss exceeding US\$1 million as a result of the buyer’s breach of the Memorandum of Agreement for the sale of Vessel. This case is complex as it involves the issue of whether the seller has taken reasonable steps to mitigate loss after the breach of the buyer
- HKMAG Arbitration (2023): acting for the shipowner in claiming an outstanding sum of over US\$1 million, which involves freight, demurrage, detention, and other charges. The case also involved a dispute over the scope of expert evidence
- HKMAG Arbitration (2023): acting for the shipowner in liaising the LOU, releasing a vessel arrested by the consignee, whilst also defending the charterers’ claim under the charterparty to recover the hire and bunkers
- HKMAG Arbitration (2023): acting for the shipowner in defending the charterer’s claim of unclean hold, and counterclaiming for premature cancellation of the charterparty. Issues including the meaning of ‘clean hold’ and whether clean hold is a condition or warranty are explored. This case was further complicated by shipowner’s unwitting partial refund of hire without reservation of rights, thus implying admission of liability
- LMAA Arbitration (2023): Assisting a charterer in a case involving misrepresentation by owners who wrongly suggested that the vessel could possibly pass through New Panamax Canal, and the charterer conveyed such a message to the sub-charterer. Eventually, the vessel did not fulfil the canal requirements and was re-routed to Suez Canal, thus the sub-charterer has deducted hire. The issues in this case involved breach of contractual warranty, misrepresentation and contractual interpretations on the canal requirements
- SIAC Arbitration (2022): Acting for a Singaporean trading company to deal with disputes arising from two sale and purchase contracts of Indonesian coal concerning a rapidly-evolving context following the coal ban policy of the Indonesian government and the total amount of dispute is more than US\$4 million
- LMAA Arbitration (2022): Acting for charterers in dealing with hire disputes in an amount of about US\$750,000 concerning whether a certain type of coal cargo was permitted to be carried under the charterparties. The case involved legal issues of interpreting the lawful trades clause and technical issues concerning the characterises of

certain type of coal

- Hong Kong Arbitration (2021): successfully acted for owners to claim against charterers for off-hire, underperformance, and propeller damage caused by ice floes at the loading port
- Hong Kong High Court – HCAJ 57/2020: acting for the largest shipyard in Hong Kong and defending them in an action brought by Airport Authority for an alleged allision between a barge and the jetty during the passage of Super Typhoon Mangkhut for a claimed amount of more than HK\$74 million
- LMAA Arbitration (2020): advised owners and buyers in relation to the oral ban imposed in Mainland China on the import of Australian coal
- HKMAG Arbitration (2020): acted for charterers successfully defending owners' claim for reliance loss resulting from failure to load cargo under a voyage charterparty brought by owners
- Singapore International Arbitration (2020): successfully acted for owners to claim damages against charterers for wrongful termination of a voyage charterparty
- LMAA Arbitration (2020): acted for charterers successfully defending an over-performance claim under a voyage charterparty brought by owners
- HKIAC Arbitration (2019): acted for a Singaporean trading company in respect of disputes arising out of a chain of sale contracts for light cycle oil involving more than US\$2 million claims, and successfully helped the clients in recovering substantial claim
- P v Q and others [2018] EWHC 1399 (Comm); [2018] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 452: acted for one of the parties in a chain of charterparties and in this case, the English Commercial Court was asked to consider the principles governing contractual time-bars and an application under s. 12 of the English Arbitration Act 1996 to extend a contractually agreed limitation period to allow the claimant to bring claims in an arbitration
- LMAA Arbitration (2017): acted for a major Chinese tanker fleet owner in relation to a claim brought by the charterers following the cancellation of a charterparty as a result of the failure of the vessel's crane and complex factual and legal issues involved e.g. construction of cancellation clause, hedging loss and its remoteness etc
- LMAA & Hong Kong Maritime Arbitrations (2016): acted for a Hong Kong registered shipping company as charterers under a time charter in London maritime arbitration, and as owners under a voyage charter in Hong Kong ad hoc arbitration, in relation to charter chain disputes arising out of a fire incident happened on the vessel during loading at Tianjin port involving a multi-party multi-million dollar claims with complex issues of causation, seaworthiness and general average etc
- LMAA Arbitration (2015): acted for charterers of MV "Bulk Jupiter" in tens of millions US dollars dispute concerning the alleged risks of liquefaction as regards the carriage of bauxite cargoes
- Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration (2015): successfully acted for owners in defending cargo claims arising from loss of deck cargo and other marine casualties, associated indemnity claims, and general average issues
- LMAA Arbitration (2014): acted for buyers in the trial of a dispute concerning a trilateral MOU to purchase a fleet of 10 vessels said to be worth US\$75 million. Issues as to whether the MOU was unenforceable for uncertainty and/or as an agreement to agree, ostensible authority and ratification, and whether the prima facie measure of damages under section 50(3) of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 applies
- LMAA Arbitration (2014): acted for charterers against owners in respect of loss or damage to the vessel allegedly caused by the negligence of the crewmembers on board and/or unseaworthiness for which the owners were contractually responsible under the charterparty
- LMAA Arbitration (2014): acted for a Chinese shipyard in shipbuilding disputes under two shipbuilding contracts totaling more than US\$30 million was claimed by the buyers
- Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration (2014): acted for charterers in demurrage disputes under more than 10 voyage charterparties in which more than US\$1 million was claimed by the ship-owners

- LMAA arbitration (2013): acted for a Chinese shipyard in a shipbuilding dispute in which more than US\$20 million was claimed by the buyers

Acted as Arbitrator

- SCIA Arbitration (2025): served as sole arbitrator in 11 related cases arising from disputes over the liquidation of a private equity fund and the distribution of shareholdings, with a total amount in dispute of approximately RMB 15 million. The cases primarily concerned the implementation of the fund's liquidation plan following the expiry of its term, the entitlement of unit holders to specific shares, and the obligations of the fund manager after deregistration. The cases involved similar factual and legal issues and were conducted in parallel. All proceedings were governed by PRC law; The 11 arbitral awards were issued in June 2025
- HKIAC Arbitration (2024): Served as sole arbitrator for a purchase contract dispute involving an amount exceeding USD8 million; the arbitral award was published in December 2024
- LMAA Arbitrations (2024): Served as co-arbitrator alongside renowned other four LMAA full members in a complex dispute involving multiple Chinese ship lessors/owners and Greek charterers in 12 arbitrations under LMAA Terms for a total sum of more than several billion US dollars; responsible for drafting all arbitral awards, the case centred on breaches of bareboat charters, failure to pay hire, and the validity of vessel arrests. The four arbitral awards were published in June 2024
- SCIA Arbitration (2024): Served as the third and presiding arbitrator for disputes arising from a dead-freight agreement related to the air carriage of goods, the performance of which was disrupted due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and changes in the aviation cargo market, involving a total sum of HK\$5 million; the arbitral award was published in February 2024
- SCIA Arbitration (2023): served as the sole arbitrator in a dispute concerning an international railway transportation agency contract, adjudicated on the legality and validity of the contract in question, as well as whether the applicant has fulfilled their obligations comprehensively; arbitral award was published in September 2023
- HKMAG Arbitration (2023): served as the sole arbitrator in respect of disputes arising out of a cargo claim worth of approximately USD 5.4 million, adjudicated on clauses in respect cargo discharge against a LOI and the surrender of original bill of lading thereafter and examined principles of double recovery; arbitral award was published in April 2023
- HKMAG Arbitration (2023): served as a sole arbitrator in respect of disputes arising out of a charterparty, adjudicated on deadfreight clause interpretation thereunder and revisited principles of liquidated damages in conjunction with the contractual interpretation; arbitral award was published in March 2023
- HKIAC Arbitration (2022): served by HKIAC as sole arbitrator to deal with disputes arising out of a voyage charterparty in relation to hull damages in the sum of about USD600,000; arbitral award was published in March 2022
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2022): served by HKIAC as sole arbitrator to deal with disputes arising out of three voyage charterparties in relation to unpaid freight and demurrage; arbitral award was published in January 2022
- Hong Kong Arbitration (2021): served by HKIAC as sole arbitrator to deal with hire dispute under a time charterparty; arbitral award was published in August 2021
- LMAA Arbitration (2020): served as co-arbitrator in relation to disputes arising out of a time charterparty between the parties with owners claiming demurrage, and charterers counterclaiming for damages; arbitral award was published in May 2020

Accolades

In July 2022, Edward Liu was honoured with the Medal of Honour for his significant contributions to the development and promotion of legal, arbitration, dispute resolution, and transport-related legal services in Hong Kong.

Edward has consistently been recognized as a leading lawyer in dispute resolution and shipping practices by prestigious publications such as The Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners since 2020. He garners high praise from peers and clients, being consistently recognized as the "always first choice to work with", "at the top of the list", and a "very approachable" lawyer. His exceptional qualities, such as his remarkable speed, efficiency, quick thinking, and ability to deliver high-quality advice within tight timeframes, have earned him praise for providing "exceptional client service". Clients commend his dedication to "going above and beyond to meet their needs", highlighting his commitment to delivering outstanding service and exceeding expectations. (Chambers & Partners Greater China Region 2020-2025)

Edward is highly regarded and has been praised as "exceptional" for his ability to comprehend complex transactions spanning multiple jurisdictions with distinct legal systems, and he is recognized for being "pragmatic, very smart, and analytical", with "impeccable judgment and a tireless work ethic". He is commended for his "effective depth of knowledge and strategic thinking", particularly in the context of assisting entities in Greater China with resolving disputes through international arbitration and litigation (Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2020-2026)

Edward Liu has been repeatedly recognised as one of the elite lawyers in China's legal market by China Business Law Journal. Renowned as "one of the best lawyers in international arbitration and maritime trade in the entire Greater China region", Edward is highly regarded for his unparalleled depth of expertise in dispute resolution, which seamlessly combines theoretical knowledge with practical industry insights. Clients consistently praise his intimate understanding of the Chinese market, his global vision, and his unique qualifications to practice in mainland China, Hong Kong, and the UK. They value his openness, accessibility, and ability to foster trusting relationships, which encourage open communication and inspire confidence in seeking his guidance. Edward's ability to deliver exceptional value and navigate complex legal challenges further solidifies his reputation as a first-rate lawyer.

In addition, he has been a frequent winner with many awards:

- 2026: 2026: Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer
- 2022-2026: A-List China's elite lawyers, China Business Law Journal
- 2025: ALB Litigators of Asia, Asian Legal Business
- 2025: Stellar Accolade for Arbitration and Shipping, LegalOne
- 2025: Doyles' Guide Leading Shipping Lawyer in Hong Kong
- 2018-2025: Top 100 Most Influential People in Chinese Shipping Industry, China Transport News
- 2023: Asia Super 50 Dispute Lawyers, Asia Business Legal
- 2022: Rising Star, China Business Law Journal
- 2019-2021: Lloyd's List Global Top 10 Maritime Lawyers
- 2020: China Shipping Top 100 Persons, China Shipping Gazette
- 2018: Ten Outstanding Young Persons in Chinese Shipping Industry, China Transport News
- 2017: Lloyd's List Global Top 5 in the Next Generation in Shipping
- 2016 & 2017: Shortlisted as one of Lloyd's List The Next Generation Award for Asia & Pacific
- 2015: The Ten Outstanding New Hong Kong Young Persons

Admissions

Solicitor, Hong Kong SAR
Solicitor, England & Wales
Solicitor, British Virgin Islands
Lawyer, P.R China

Other Positions

Statutory and Advisory Appointments by Hong Kong SAR Government

Member, The Chief Executive's Policy Unit Expert Group
Member, Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Expert Committee
Member, Expert Advisory Group on Legal and Dispute Resolution Services
Member, Advisory Body on Third Party Funding of Arbitration and Mediation
Member, Working Group on Arbitration Law Reform
Member, Hong Kong Maritime and Port Development Board
Member, Appeal Board Panel (Town Planning)
Member, Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Appeal Board (2022-2025)
Member, Aviation Development and Three-Runway Advisory Committee (2019-2025)
Member, Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board (2024-2025)
Member, International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Expert Group (2022-2024)
Member, Advisory Body on Promotion of Arbitration (2020-2024)
Member, Steering Committee on Mediation (2019-2024)
Member, Appeal Board (Housing) (2021-2023)
Adjudicator, Registration of Persons Tribunal (2021-2023)

Other Professional Appointments in Hong Kong

Council Member, the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Member, Mainland Business Advisory Committee, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council
Member, Arbitration Committee, the Law Society of Hong Kong
Member, Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination Committee, the Law Society of Hong Kong
Member, Legal Committee, The Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association
Executive Member, the Hong Kong Maritime Law Association
Member, the China Sub-Committee, the Hong Kong Shipowners' Association
Member, the Hong Kong & Macau SAR Committee, China Classification Society
Member, Membership Affairs Committee, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China
Member, Professional Services Advisory Committee, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (2021-2026)

Mainland China Appointments

Council Member, China Law Society
Council Member, China Overseas Friendship Association
Member, Henan Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
Member, Shanghai Hongkou District Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
Council Member, Shanghai Overseas Friendship Association

Education

Edward's educational background includes a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from Shanghai Maritime University in 2008, a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the University of Southampton, UK in 2009, and a Graduate Diploma of Laws (GDL) degree from BPP Law School in 2013.

In 2018, he completed the Investment Law and Investor-State Mediator Training Courses, co-organized by the Hong Kong Department of Justice, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL). In 2022, he successfully finished the HKIAC Advanced Arbitration Training Programme. In 2023, he completed the Advanced Course in Hong Kong – 1st Edition: "Current Trends on International Commercial and Investment Dispute Settlement", co-organised by the Hong Kong Department of Justice, The Hague Academy of International Law, and Asia Academy of International Law.

Language

Edward's native language is Chinese and Putonghua, and can speak very fluent English and Cantonese.