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2024

SLAUGHTER AND MAY / 50 HONG KONG

OUR STORY - YOUR STORY

"As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we asked our clients, friends, colleagues and alumni to share their memories of our time in Hong Kong and their wishes for the future. We were overwhelmed with the response. Some of those we received are included within this presentation."



Benita Yu
Senior Partner, Hong Kong

" Our history here, and the many memories we have created together with our colleagues, clients and friends means that the Hong Kong office has always been a special place for the Slaughter and May family. "

Steve Cooke
(Retired Senior Partner)

" Celebrating with our friends, clients and colleagues is an opportunity to look forward to the next 50 years - and many more years of success together. "

Roland Turnill
Senior Partner

" During my three-decade tenure at Swire Group, I had the most wonderful and memorable experience working with many distinguished partners and solicitors at Slaughter and May on numerous significant and high-profile transactions, such as Cathay Pacific's strategic investment in Air China's IPO in 2004, the establishment of cross shareholding between Cathay Pacific and Air China together with Cathay Pacific's acquisition of Dragonair in 2006 (which received Finance Asia Deal of the Year Award for 2006), the spin-off and separate listing of Swire Properties in 2010/2012, Swire Pacific's acquisition of HAECO shares from Cathay Pacific and mandatory general offer for HAECO in 2010, the privatisation of HAECO by Swire Pacific by way of a scheme of arrangement in 2018, and Cathay Pacific's acquisition of Hong Kong Express in 2019.

I always enjoyed attending Slaughter and May's receptions and look forward to celebrating the firm's 50th anniversary in Hong Kong in 2024 and wishing the firm every success in the next 50 years! "

David Fu
Company Secretary (2006-2020),
Swire Pacific and Cathay Pacific
Group Company Secretary (2020-2023), HKEX

" 50 years ago, we became the first British law firm to establish an office in Hong Kong. Today, our commitment to the territory remains just as strong. "

Deborah Finkler
Managing Partner

" I still remember my first visit to Hong Kong in 1984. Arriving into Kai Tak was an extraordinary experience and I spent a great couple of days with colleagues, including a trip on the junk. The liveliness of the Hong Kong team has not abated since - the world has changed of course but it is excellent to know that Slaughter and May remains at the heart of the business community in Hong Kong. "

Christopher Saul
Christopher Saul Associates
(Retired Senior Partner)

" Slaughter and May was the first British law firm to establish an office in Hong Kong. It is with immense pride and gratitude that we celebrate five decades of excellence in the city.

It is a testament to the contributions of our colleagues, past and present. We are delighted not only to have this chance to look back and share our story, but also to have an opportunity to look forward into the future. "

Benita Yu
Senior Partner, Hong Kong

" Congratulations on your 50th anniversary. Slaughter and May have created its own history but also been a pivotal partner for MTR Corporation during key moments in our history.

We thank you for your outstanding support and ongoing commitment to excellence.

To Jason Webber, Peter Brien and your many colleagues we thank you for your outstanding support and ongoing commitment to excellence."

Brian Downie

Deputy Director - Legal, Procurement & Supply Chain, MTR Corporation

" Congratulations to the Hong Kong office of Slaughter and May on its 50th anniversary. This incredible milestone signifies the enduring success and impact that Slaughter and May has made in the legal industry in Hong Kong.

Reaching 50 years is a remarkable achievement in any field, but particularly in the legal profession where the landscape is constantly evolving.

Throughout the years, Slaughter and May has been a trusted advisor for countless clients. Their dedication to providing excellent legal services and upholding the highest ethical standards has contributed to its enduring success.

As an alumnus and a former client, I am incredibly proud to have been part of the Slaughter and May family. The knowledge, skills, and values I acquired during my time at the firm continue to shape my professional journey to this day. I am also grateful for the legal services and support that I received when I became an in-house counsel.

Once again, congratulations and I look forward to working with the team again in the near future. "

Mabel Chu

" We're proud to have been with you for a large part of this journey. Congratulations all!"

Jonny Ginns
Head of M&A, INEOS

" I was at Jardine Fleming in 1973 and we were so keen to get Slaughter and May to open an office in Hong Kong we promised to give them substantially all of our business if they did. A promise we were happy to honour!

Slaughter and May have always had such high quality and fun staff in HK, many have become lifelong friends. "

Alan Smith
Wheelock and Co

"40 years ago this month I visited the HK office for the first time in Connaught Centre.

Duly impressed, I committed to spend most of the following 7 years in HK, benefiting hugely from the business platform established by the work of the early pioneers. Sad to note Adrian Smart and Rupert Beaumont are not around to toast the half century; Much has changed but so much remains the same. It is a legacy to cherish.

Kung Hei Fat Choi for the year of the dragon and for a future of 'less interesting times'. "

Richard Hall
DC Thomson
(Retired Partner)

" Congratulations on your 50th anniversary celebration! What a remarkable achievement!

We wish you all a memorable and joyous 50th anniversary celebration. Here's to another 50 years of success and growth!! "

CT Chang
Lee and Li Attorneys

" My experience working with Slaughter and May has been that all lawyers are the most all-rounded, with abilities and experience to provide full coverage. I wish Slaughter and May all the very best and happy 50th anniversary! "

Elton Cheung
VMS Group

" Thank you for the wise counsel, tireless effort and warm friendship over the years. Best wishes for the next 50! "

Seng Lee
Managing Director, Swiss Re

" It is really our luck to have the chance to work with Slaughter and May and learn from its excellent quality of professional services. We are glad to have built a strong friendship that ties us together strongly ever since we started working with each other. The friendship is even more invaluable.

Slaughter and May has been a pioneer in tackling foreseeable and unforeseeable challenges in the legal industry. It is generous to share such foresight and experience with legal industry players. Trust it will continue to grow as the top leading magic circle firm worldwide, including Hong Kong. "

Janet Hui
JunHe LLP

" Over the past decade, your Firm's legal advice and insights have been invaluable to the success of our corporate transactions. Your professional team were always available to address our concerns, patiently explaining complex legal and compliance issues to our Beijing colleagues and guiding us towards sound decisions. We felt secure knowing that our best interests were being diligently protected.

Special thanks to Ms Benita Yu and Mr Justin Chan, the partners that have served our Company.

Your dedication to building a strong client relationship has fostered an environment of trust and collaboration between our companies.

Congratulations to your 50th anniversary! "

Vanessa Cheung
China Power

" Delighted to be present to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Slaughter and May in Hong Kong and the 48th anniversary of my arrival there as a partner from London.

As the first London firm to open in Hong Kong, there were (to put it mildly) challenging but very rewarding times. Loads of memories including tiles pinging off Connaught Centre as Jardine House was then called during typhoon.

Best wishes for a fruitful future and Kung Hei. "

Patrick Balfour

" Exceptional client service without fail. In terms of getting deals done quickly and cleanly, Slaughter and May has got to be the very best."

Matthew Carey
Corporate Legal Counsel, Nan Fung

" My very first interaction with a securities lawyer was with your firm shortly after I joined UBS as a young banking association in 1989 in London. Both UBS and Slaughters both working on the takeover defence of Red Funnel. The lawyer was the senior partner at that time, Nicholas Tapner.

Red Funnel run the ferry between Southampton and the Isle of Wight and its full name was "The Southampton Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Limited" which bestowed upon this tiny company the longest name for a listed company on the LSE.

This experience left an abiding memory of working with Slaughter and May - and I have carried a torch for the firm ever since.

Unfortunately this is not a HK memory. On the other hand Slaughter and May is a global firm - and whenever I have worked with Slaughter and May on HK business I would share this memory with my Slaughter and May counterparts. "

Peter Burnett
Standard Chartered Bank

" Many congratulations and may there be another half a century of success to come! "

Lawrence Tsang
Pyramidion

" Congratulations on your 50th anniversary in Hong Kong! Always a pleasure to work with the excellent Slaughter and May team in Hong Kong on our many complex transactions. Thank you for your support over the years."

Sheena Love
FWD Group

" As a member of the Listing Review Committee Secretariat I have had fond memories and rewarding experiences working with Committee members from Slaughter and May Hong Kong. I wish the firm every success in the future. "

Jeffrey Tong
HKEX

" From my early days in the office I noticed the book "Slaughter and May A Century In The City" published to commemorate its first 100 years. During my final months at Slaughter and May I finally read the whole book with interest, delight, pride and sadness; It will be good for the Hong Kong office to have its little booklet to commemorate its first 50 years.

The friendliness of its members from partners down to the tea lady from the crack of dawn to the small hours adds to fond memories.

Long live Slaughter and May and the value it carries. "

Susan Wong
former HKSAR Government Senior Solicitor
(Retired)

" Thanks a million, well, 50 million, for the invaluable support, always dependable. "

Richard Mok
AAC Technologies

" Many congratulations. 50 years anniversary is a valuable event to be remembered and celebrated. I first met one of your partners in 1992 and that was 31 years ago already. "

Alvin Leung
Managing Director, Proton Capital

" Many congratulations! Lots of great memories of working with many highly professional and collaborative partners over 30 of those 50 years(!) including Tim, St John, Richard, Peter, David, Benita, Lisa, and many excellent lawyers. Best wishes for your continued success! "

Richard Orders
Moelis & Company

" All the best to Slaughter and May on their anniversary. So many fantastic years of working with Tim Freshwater, Chris Fitzgerald, Richard Slater, Richard Thornhill and, of course, Jason Webber, and so many more!

Lots of memories. I'm sure the future will be even more exciting and successful. "

Leonard Turk
Former Legal Director & Secretary, MTR

" When I was working as a real estate associate back then in 2005, a walk-in client instructed me to act for him in his purchase of a luxurious apartment.

He told me he was caught by our name - "Slaughter" - as in he believed solicitors who are bold and proud enough to hold themselves out to such name must be capable enough to "slaughter" seller's lawyers to protect his interest!

While he might not have an idea about the origin of our UK parent firm and the names of its two founders, Slaughter and May solicitors earn the trust of clients for its breadth of legal knowledge, high level of competence and outstanding service amongst its learned counterparts. "

Lai Ho Chui
Group Legal Counsel, Nan Fung

" A very approachable team with unrivalled experience and creativity in helping clients in resolving problems."

Chun Yee Wong
Director, Corporate Finance, OCBC Bank

" My first professional meeting with the firm was while working for Hongkong Land and it was clear that there could be no better firm to have at the top of Jardine House than Slaughter and May and Hongkong Land are lucky to count the firm as tenants.

Jules and I send our congratulations on a fantastic 50 years in Hong Kong and wish Slaughter and May every success for the next 50 years. "

Paul Bennett
Experium Founder

"It is my privilege to have trained at Slaughters, and I am very glad to have made many friends whom I remain in touch with.

I remember someone giving me a copy of "Slaughter and May: A Short History". I am sure much has happened since the book was written, and I also have no doubt that Slaughters will continue to go from strength to strength."

Queenie Lau
Temple Chambers

"Always an absolute pleasure to work with Slaughter and May, very best wishes for the future."

David Lamb
Conyers Dill & Pearman

"Sending my best wishes to everyone and I am sure that the event will be a great success and suitably mark a fabulous milestone in the history of the firm in Hong Kong.

I am very proud to have played a small part in the life of the office, and am particularly honoured to have met and worked with so many talented lawyers and non-lawyers over the years who made my time with the office so enjoyable and memorable."

Neil Hyman

"I have the privilege to work with a great team over the years on some of the most significant bancassurance transactions in the region.

Thank you to the Slaughter and May team and look forward to create more track records together."

Cecilia Law
Chief of Partnership Distribution, FWD Group

"Congratulations to the Hong Kong office on so successfully weathering the peaks and troughs to reach its half century and wishing it every success as it navigates onwards towards its centenary."

Mark Yeadon
Partner, Conyers (Retired)

"Slaughter and May Hong Kong has been a catalyst and witness to some of the most important milestones in my life.

Without my trainee secondment to Hong Kong (and Jason Webber's guidance throughout that six-month period, some of it even relating to the law...), I wouldn't have met my wife at Happy Valley Racecourse. Former Partner Peter Lake was a witness at my wedding at City Hall and is Godfather to our firstborn.

Numerous former trainees went on to become clients while I was still working at the firm; others have become trusted advisers since I moved in-house.

I have many happy memories from Slaughter and May and I am proud to have been a small part of the first 50 years.

Happy anniversary! "

Laurence Rudge
Li & Fung

" My secondment at Slaughter and May Hong Kong was fantabulous. It was a great opportunity to work with intelligent, lovely and hardworking colleagues, and to join all those interesting events. I wish not only a bright future for Slaughter and May, but also the deepening of the long-term friendship between Slaughter and May and JunHe. "

Mengmeng Zhao
JunHe LLP

" Congratulations on your 50th anniversary! I can't imagine that I have been working with Slaughter and May for more than 16 years! I appreciate the help and support from Slaughter and May, and the good advice that we always receive from you. "

Denise Kwan
General Manager Group Finance, Swire Pacific

" Slaughter and May is an undoubted top-tier law firm. The Senior Partner, Benita Yu and other partners are to be congratulated for delivering the strategy to provide best-of-the-class legal advice with an understanding of business concerns. It is a pleasure to work with the firm and to provide my personal congratulations to Benita and her team. "

Mohan Datwani
Deputy Chief Executive,
The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute

" Very sorry not to be there to mark the occasion, having worked in the office for a total of half of its life so far. I hope you have a great evening. "

Richard Thornhill
(Retired Senior Partner)

" Many congratulations on achieving a half century. I'm sure the firm will go from strength to strength, and I wish you every success for the future. "

Paul Olney
(Retired Partner)

" I remember my trainee interview so clearly. For a fresh-faced university graduate, the grandeur of the 47/F lift lobby, the plushness of the carpet and the incredible views from the meeting room all combined to add to the pre-interview nerves and the overriding feeling that I was entering a world in which I didn't belong.

In the end, I need not have worried - my interview was with George Goulding and Jason Webber (two of the nicest, most interesting and welcoming law firm partners I have encountered (even to this day)) so it was very much a case of 'good cop, good cop'!

My first trainee seat with Jason Webber - he taught me more about the business of law firm client service in those 6 months than I have learned in the 15 years since! But more than that, he was/is an excellent example of the benefits of being 100% positive in 100% of your daily interactions (a practice I am still trying, and failing, to implement to this day!). "

John Cartwright
Partner, Walkers

" I had three memorable spells across five years in Hong Kong during my 13 years at Slaughter and May. My first, as a London seconded trainee in 2009, got me hooked on Hong Kong. My second, a short secondment in 2014, convinced me I needed to move here. My third, starting in 2016, was a one-way ticket.

I have since made Hong Kong my home, as well as being the place I got married in 2021 and where my daughter was born in 2023. Without the firm, I wouldn't live here and feel privileged to maintain deep friendships and client relationships I made when at the firm. "

Kevin Warburton
HFW Partner

" More than anything, it's the people that make this firm so special. It's something I don't take for granted and feel very grateful to be a part of. "

Stephanie Courtice
Counsel, Hong Kong

" Happy 50th anniversary to Slaughter and May Hong Kong! It's a pleasant experience to be part of its journey during my secondment with the firm.

May it continue to excel in the years to come! "

Moonar Tsoi
DOJ Public prosecutor

" Still remember the good old days at Two Exchange Square! "

Deborah Chan
Managing Associate General Counsel, HSBC

" I loved my time at the office as a trainee - best wishes for another 50 years!"

Kathy Hughes
(Former Partner)

" Congratulations to Slaughter and May on its 50 years of extraordinary success in Hong Kong! "

Leiming Chen
SVP, Ant Group

"Congratulations on your half century!"

Martin Sabine
Chairman, Somerley Ltd

"Very many congratulations on the 50th anniversary of your Hong Kong office! You will re-start the first year of the next 50 years from now on."

Hide Mihara
Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu

"Best wishes for the future, with many happy memories of working with Richard Thornhill and Peter Brien in particular."

Robert Herries
Tree Line Management Director

"Congratulations on your 50th birthday!"

Kitty Ng
Director, Legal, SoftBank Investment Advisers

"To our best friend firm in HK: here's to the next 50 years!"

Maher Asmoro Putra Sasongko
Partner, ABNR

"Congratulations Slaughter and May on your incredible success!"

Esther Fung
Legal Counsel, CICC

"Congratulations for such anniversary!"

Didier Martin
Bredin Prat

"Professional and problem solving oriented. Wishing the team a prosperous and fruitful year of the Dragon!"

Elaine Cheung
Managing Director, CMBI

"Congratulations on 50 years of legal excellence! Here's to a future filled with continued success and prosperity."

Sean Lun
Senior Officer, Orient Overseas Container Line Limited

"Congratulations on your 50th anniversary!"

Marshall Chu
Senior Legal Counsel, Cathay Pacific

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