

MICHAEL K. LEE

Michael K. Lee is a Partner at Dilinh Legal. A registered foreign lawyer in Vietnam and an arbitrator for the Vietnam International Arbitration Center, Michael has been practicing in Vietnam since 2007, previously with the Vietnam offices of Mayer Brown JSM and Tilleke and Gibbins. Also a licensed lawyer in California (1996), Michael has extensive experience litigating civil and criminal matters in the United States. He is fluent in English and Korean.

Michael has been identified as a leading lawyer in Vietnam in the areas of Corporate and M&A (by Chambers Asia Pacific, Legal 500, Asia Law Profiles), Projects, Infrastructure, and Energy (by Chambers Asia Pacific), and Real Estate (by Asia Law Profiles).

EDUCATION

- **Washington College of Law, American University**, District of Columbia
LL.M., December 2006
- **McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific**, Sacramento, CA
J.D., May 1995
- **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
B.A., Anthropology, June 1991

BAR MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER LICENSES

- State Bar of California, June 1996; State Bar of Texas, May 1997; Supreme Court of Colorado, December 1998
- Registered Foreign Lawyer (Vietnam), October 2008
- Appointed to Vietnam International Arbitration Center (VIAC) arbitration panel, May 2012.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized as a leading lawyer in Vietnam for Corporate/M&A (2011-2019 versions) and Projects, Infrastructure & Energy (2012-2017) by *Chambers Asia Pacific*.
- Recognized as a leading lawyer in Vietnam for Corporate/M&A (2015-2018 versions) by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*. There is only one ranking category with the usual number of lawyers being listed ranging from 8 to 16 lawyers.
- Recognized as a leading lawyer in Vietnam for Corporate/M&A (2015-2019) and Real Estate (2011-2012 and in 2019) by *Asia law Profiles*.

NOTABLE ENGAGEMENTS

- Advised a major Japanese construction company in a USD 140,000,000 mixed-use office, condominium and serviced apartment project in Hanoi, including all licensing matters, land title issues, zoning variances, land subdivision, joint venture negotiations, corporate governance, and property management regulations.
- Advised on seven figure construction dispute over a custom-built factory in central Vietnam.
- Drafted a memo providing a comprehensive overview of Vietnamese construction law for the purposes of drafting and negotiating various construction contracts for one of the world's leading EPC companies.

- Advised on litigation strategy/tactics and pleadings in cooperation with Vietnamese barristers on various Vietnamese commercial and labor lawsuits in Vietnamese courts.
- Advised on a lengthy and complex white collar crime and fraud investigation in a foreign invested software development business in Vietnam.
- Advised a multinational pharmaceutical company regarding various corporate consolidation matters, including management, labor, and drug licensing, arising from its worldwide merger with another leading pharmaceutical company. After the integration became effective, we helped the subsidiaries comply with various legal requirements and assisted our client in obtaining the necessary permits.
- Helped a major U.S. hospitality chain to structure, draft, and negotiate management contracts and conduct due diligence for six hotel, resort, and condominium projects in compliance with Vietnamese law, including land title, zoning issues, complex brand licensing, and various taxation issues.
- Provided comprehensive due diligence and advice on share acquisitions of (1) a Vietnamese-owned online tax filing and payment company and (2) a Vietnamese bio-fuel (ethanol) manufacturer. Significant issues included the regulatory and licensing framework for digital signature certification services, Internet information services, and environmental law.
- Advised on, drafted, and negotiated share acquisition agreements (and related documents) and conducted due diligence on several seven digit acquisitions in Vietnam, including a resort complex in central Vietnam, a leading online gaming company, and a leading paper manufacturer
- Negotiated and drafted joint venture agreements, conducted due diligence, and prepared licensing documentation for a seven-digit golf/residence project in Ho Chi Minh City for a listed Korean developer; for several six-digit resort projects for a Dutch developer; and for a seven-digit high-rise office complex in Ho Chi Minh City for a large Hong Kong based private equity fund.
- Applied for and obtained an investment certificate for a rapidly expanding U.S. Internet company to set up shop and conduct business in Vietnam. Worked with the client to secure a local joint venture partner and structured the deal to allow the client to retain independence and control of the company.
- Applied for and obtained an investment certificate for one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. This included researching complex licensing and capitalization issues to limit the company's liability and advised on the proper amount of investment capital.