

Zhang Libin



Position: Senior Partner

Business: Foreign-related Legal Affairs Civil and Commercial Litigation and Arbitration The energy field

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Working experience

Mr.Zhang graduated from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 1997 with a J.D.degree and he was licensed to practice in the State of New York and China.

Since then,he has been practicing in China for over 25 years.He started his legal career as associate with Paul,Weiss(New York and Beijing)in 1997 and subsequently with White&Case(Shanghai)in 2000,mostly advising foreign clients in direct investment/joint venture projects in China.In 2006,Mr.Zhang joined Baker Botts as resident partner in its Beijing Office and advised foreign and Chinese clients in energy-related projects and cases.In 2010,he joined a prestigious Chinese law firm Broad&Bright,practicing Chinese law in assisting Chinese and foreign clients in energy sectors.In 2012,Mr.Zhang moved in-house to work for Siemens,sering as Head of Legal M&A-Asia&Australia,and under his leadership,his team concluded more than 20 M&A/JV projects.In 2019,he joined a large-scale private Chinese energy giant ENN Group as general counsel and chief compliance officer.After 3 years in ENN,in July 2022,he joined a very prestigious Chinese law firm King&Capital,one of the best litigation law firms in China,and has worked up present as a senior partner in charge of the Firm's foreign practice group.

His practice areas cover dispute resolution(arbitration and expert determination and structured negotiation),corporate&M&As,international trade transactions(including LNG SPA contract review and negotiation),upstream,mid-stream and downstream oil&gas sectors,compliance and regulatory matters.

In addition to his personal practice,Attorney Zhang is also an arbitrator of the CIETAC,Beijing Arbitration Commission(BAC),Langfang Arbitration Commission,Harbin Arbitration Commission,Yingtian Arbitration Commission and other arbitration institutions.He often serves as the chief or border judge to hear disputes concerning the supply contract of energy,engineering,equity investment,goods sales,technical services,and public utilities(such as electricity,gas,and water).He is a recognized arbitrator in the industry who excels in disputes related to the energy industry(fossil energy and new energy).Attorney Zhang is also an arbitrator of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre(HKIAC)and the Organization pour l'harmonisation du Droit des Affaires en Afrique(OHADA),as well as the Chinese ambassador and member of the Swiss Arbitration Association(ASA).He was the drafter and reporter of the"Annual Observations on Energy Dispute Resolution"by the BAC in 2013,2014,2015,2016,and 2017(reports for 2013 and 2014 were co written with others),as well as the author of the chapter on China's oil and gas industry in Chambers'2017 publication"Global Business Guidelines:Energy Oil and Gas".He has visited Dubai,Kenya and South Africa,China Taipei,the United Kingdom,Switzerland,and Germany with delegations of arbitrators from CIETAC and BAC,and had full communication with local arbitrators,judges,law professors,and lawyers.At present,he is the convener of the Energy Dispute Resolution Forum of CIETAC and the Energy Salon of the BAC Energy Arbitration Panel.

Mr.Zhang is also a compliance expert with practical experience.He is a registered expert of ISO TC309 in China and participated in the overall conversion of ISO 37301(Compliance Management System Requirements)to the Chinese national standard 35770.He has also been fully involved in the drafting and discussion of the ISO 37302 standard(expected to be promulgated in 2025).

Mr.Zhang has taught energy law at the law schools of Peking University,Tsinghua University,China University of Political Science and Law,and University of International Business and Economics.He has also participated in or led energy law and policy research projects of relevant departments.

He participated in the writing of works such as "Compliance Management System Requirements and Guidelines for Use" Standard Interpretation and Application" (Enterprise Management Press, 2022) and "Compliance Officer Training and Coaching Textbook" (Law Press, 2022); Co translated works: "A Practical Guide to Mergers and Acquisitions by Foreign Companies in the United States" (Law Press, 2011), "Nutshell" (Law Press, 2004). His personal monograph: United States contract law: Cases, Rules and Values (Law Press, 2007).

Work performance

Dispute resolution:

Providing legal services in ICC London arbitration for EPC disputes related to a new energy project located in a Latin American country (in progress).

Providing legal services on issues related to PPA disputes and compensation from a certain country Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure) involved in hydropower projects of a certain state-owned enterprise in Southeast Asian countries (in progress).

Providing consulting services for the enforcement of a certain foreign arbitration award in China (in progress).

Representing a Chinese client (the person subject to enforcement) in the enforcement procedure of a certain LCIA arbitration award in the Higher People's Court of a certain province in China (in progress).

Provided legal services for a certain Chinese enterprise regarding the oil and gas project located in Ethiopia. Providing consultation for the client regarding the non-negotiable payment dispute case between a certain LNG importer (client) and a certain city LNG receiving station company (in progress).

Provided legal services for the negotiation and agreement modification of the long-term LNG contract between a certain Chinese enterprise and a certain American company.

Provided multiple legal expert opinions in the ad hoc arbitration in London based on the UNCITRAL arbitration rules for the PSA project dispute between a certain people from a certain country national oil company and a foreign company in a certain country (with a claim of 1.8 billion US dollars), testified in court as a people from a certain country legal expert witness, accepted cross-examination, and was questioned by the arbitration tribunal (the people from a certain country side won a major victory in this case).

Provided consultation for the farm-out dispute between an international oil and gas company and an Indian company in the Shanxi coalbed methane project at SIAC Arbitration in Singapore and appeared in court in Singapore (the client achieved a complete victory in this case).

Provided legal services to Conocophillips regarding the Bohai Bay oil spill incident, including negotiations between Conocophillips and the State Oceanic Administration, compensation for fishermen, and the division of responsibility with CNOOC.

Cross-border investment and mergers and acquisitions:

Providing full-process legal services for the investment and implementation of a photovoltaic project of a certain state-owned enterprise in a Middle Eastern country (in progress).

Provided legal services for ENN Group's light-asset acquisition of the US Freeport project (long-term contractual arrangement for entrusted liquefaction of upstream purchased natural gas), including handling the CFIUS US national security review and post-signing transition period arrangements and delivery preparations (the project agreement was terminated due to commercial reasons).

Provided legal services such as legal due diligence on behalf of Chinese clients for the acquisition of a 300MW wind power project in Ukraine.

Provided full-process legal services (including legal due diligence, transaction structure design and drafting of transaction documents, negotiation, signing and closing, including coordinating the business concentration declaration procedures with the Ministry of Commerce of China) for HP's successful acquisition of the assets within China of Samsung's global printer business (valued at 1.05 billion US dollars).

Represented Sheneng Group in conducting legal due diligence for the acquisition of a certain oil and gas block in Indonesia. Served as the project leader, collaborating with technology companies and finance companies, and participated in the project's argumentation, transaction structure, and acquisition negotiations (the transaction was abandoned due to business issues).

Provided legal services (including due diligence, transaction structure design, negotiation and modification of acquisition documents, and transaction completion) to Xinjiang Guanghui Group (listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange) for its successful acquisition of a 49% stake in a target company in the Zaisan block of Kazakhstan and a package of debt restructuring, offering a full-process and all-round legal service that satisfied the client.

Provided legal services for Sinochem Group's acquisition of a 40% stake in Statoil's Peregrino oil field in Brazil for 3.07 billion US dollars.

Compliance business:

Providing legal services for the protection of legal risks and rights and interests in the national supervision case involving the boss of a certain state-owned enterprise involving an overseas individual client (in progress)

Provided legal services related to compliance and dispute resolution for cross-border financial transactions involving a Chinese-funded enterprise in

Hong Kong.

Provided professional services for a private enterprise in the medical industry to establish a compliance management system for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Provided compliance lectures for the board of directors, supervisors, and senior executives of a large energy state-owned enterprise, and provide consulting services for the establishment and certification of a compliance system based on ISO 37301:2011 (converted to Chinese national standard 35770-2022).

Led the establishment of a compliance management system for the ENN GROUP, starting from analysis and research to compliance risk identification, led the team to draft and formulate basic regulations and specific guidelines for compliance (including antitrust, anti-corruption, workplace violence, HSE, software and IP protection, data, platform operation compliance, etc.), organized and held compliance annual meetings, conducted compliance training, compliance inspection and research, assisted in handling violations and government investigation and rectification, launched the design and development of compliance digital products.

Communicated with the Ministry of Natural Resources on behalf of a Chinese enterprise regarding compliance requirements for ecological protection red lines and reasonable compensation issues encountered in its coalbed methane block in Shanxi, and provide legal consulting services for clients.

Provided compliance solutions for land reclamation issues in a coal gasification technology base of a Chinese enterprise.

Provided compliance consulting services for a private enterprise on a government authorized public platform project (ABO, Authorize-Build-Operate), from bidding, negotiation with the government, establishment of a joint venture platform, to operational design.

Assisted group enterprises to establish the compliance management specifications of the procurement platform (including the design of suppliers' compliance background investigation, compliance commitment and contract termination right, compliance blacklist and investigation process) and related digital products development.

Social duties

Arbitrator of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission

Arbitrator of the Beijing Arbitration Commission

Arbitrator of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

Director of the Expert Committee of Dalian International Arbitration Court and Arbitrator of Dalian International Arbitration Court

Member of the Beijing Bar Association and member of the Foreign Affairs Work Committee

Member of the New York State Bar Association, USA

Member of the Swiss Arbitration Association

Member of AIPN (Association of International Petroleum Negotiators)

Member of the New Energy Chamber of Commerce of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce

Executive Director of the Energy Law Research Society of the China Law Society

Member of the Comparative Law Society of the China Law Society

Director of the 2005 Committee of the Western Returned Scholars Association

Honors

As the managing partner of the Group, Mr. Zhang Libin is widely recognized as a leading figure in his field of practice. In 2025, Mr. Zhang became an award-winning lawyer in the LegalOne Elite 100 (Dispute Resolution). In 2024, Mr. Zhang was selected for the Legal Vision's "Brand Guide of High-quality Legal Services (2024)" in the fields of Energy, Environment & Natural Resources, Dispute Resolution, and Overseas Investment & Engineering. He was also awarded the following honors by Legal Vision's Brand Star: Strength Lawyer in Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Field (2024), Brand Star: Strength Lawyer in Dispute Resolution Field (2024), Brand Star: Leading Lawyer in Overseas Investment & Engineering Field (2024). In 2020, Mr. Zhang was awarded the Chambers GC influencers list 2020. In 2019, Mr. Zhang was recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Projects & Energy by the renowned UK legal ranking agency, The Legal 500. For two consecutive years, Mr. Zhang was recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Projects & Energy by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific in 2017 and 2018, and was named one of the Top 20 Client-Choice Lawyers by the Asian Legal Business (ALB) in 2017. In 2016, Mr. Zhang was recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Corporate/M&A and Projects & Energy by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, and recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Energy & Environment by LEGALBAND.

Educational background

Mr. Zhang Linbin graduated from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 1997 with a Juris Doctor degree (J.D.).

Mr. Zhang graduated from the University of International Business and Economics in 1987 with a B.A. degree in Economics.

Mr. Zhang is licensed to practice law in China and the State of New York.