

Jerold ZHENG Partner

PE/VC, M&A | Regulatory and Compliance Dispute Resolution



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📍 Shanghai

Jerold Zheng is a partner at Merits & Tree. Prior to joining M&T, Mr. Zheng was a partner at T&C Law Firm. Before that, he was the Regional Counsel, APAC for Albemarle Corporation and had been in private practice at Troutman Pepper LLP.

Mr. Zheng's main practice areas include cross-border M&A and investment transactions, regulatory compliance, international arbitration and dispute resolution. He serves leading industrial clients in sectors including new energy and new materials, chemical engineering, automation and manufacturing and certification services, etc. He has rich experience in transaction structure design, due diligence, project finance and cross-border deal protection mechanisms. In particular, he is highly recognized by clients for providing practical advice and solution combining business acumen and legal insights, that bridge the culture difference and information ambiguity to help achieve deals. Mr. Zheng advises a dozen of Fortune 500 companies for regulatory compliance issues in China operations, and also represents leading Chinese enterprises in international arbitration and litigation to defend their interests on global market.

Achievements

Merger & Acquisitions, Joint Ventures, Investment

- Represented Sichuan USNE in capex modification project of its 25KTA LiOH production line and sale of all equity interest in the project company;
- Represented Evergreen, a Virginia based home décor and garden business, to restructure its China operation and sell Ningbo subsidiary to Daqian Textile;

- Represented Fine Furniture to spin-off its flooring business from furniture business for sale to AHF Products LLC;
- Represented Ningbo Beilun New Service Development to acquire Japanese invested CEL (China);
- Represented Zeal to acquire Castleton Commodities Trading (China);
- Represented ZPC to build a refinery catalyst joint venture ZPC Zheyong Technology with Honeywell;
- Represented Tianneng to establish a joint venture with SAFT to develop lithium-ion battery based energy storage business;
- Represented the surface treatment segment of a German based chemical giant to acquire the equity interests from its Chinese partners in Shanghai and Chongqing joint ventures.

Dispute Resolution

- Represented Albemarle Holdings against a claim of RMB 173 million raised in SHIAC regarding performance of integration and cooperation agreement following an acquisition, and successfully settled by introducing independent mediator from outside of the tribunal pursuant to China (Shanghai) FTZ Arbitration Rules, saving 70 million for client;
- Represented a Chinese pharmaceutical company and its US subsidiary to fight against multi-state litigations (MSL) with 400+ plaintiffs in the US regarding an alleged ingredient quality issue, and worked with US counsel on cross-border evidence production;
- Represented a well-known web-based social media company to resist an unfavorable NAI arbitral award of over RMB 1 billion, including petition in mainland China and Hong Kong to resist the enforcement, petition to enforce a prior related favorable CIETAC arbitration, and initiation of a new CIETAC arbitration;
- Successfully defending a new energy company in labor arbitration, first instance and appellate (final) court proceedings against occupational disease compensation claims raised by 6 key employees;
- Represented foreign invested manufacturing, chemical and industrial companies like Schneider Electric, Illinois Tool Works and Chemetall to deal with commercial dispute resolutions.

Regulatory and Compliance

- Represented a lithium-based new materials company to conduct risk assessment due diligence exercise on its plants and workshops, and prepare risk mitigation report;
- Represented a foreign invested specialty chemical company to work with a police investigation and improve its SOP and internal rules on precursor chemical management and trading;
- Represented a new energy company to respond an investigation by local environment protection bureau (EPB) in Jiangxi to conclude the investigation without imposing penalty;
- Represented a chemical company to apply for administrative review of a cease production order of local EPB in Zhejiang, and succeeded in procuring the superior level EPB to set aside the order;
- Represented a web tech company to respond an investigation by IP protection bureau of a district in Shanghai for alleged infringement of registered trademark and succeeded in procuring a decision of authority not to impose penalty.

Honors

 2023 Legal Hall of Fame - Best Lawyers Recommended by GC

Education

LL.M., Columbia University (with honorable name as “Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar”)

LL.B., Fudan University

Admissions

- PRC Bar
- New York State Bar

Language

Chinese、English