

Yuexi (Jessie) YAO Shanghai Office



Language: Chinese, English

Expertise: International Investment M&A Corporate Private Equity and Investment Funds

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基本信息

Education Background

September 1999 - July 2003 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University | Law | Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

September 2003 - July 2006 | Shanghai Jiao Tong University | Law | Master of Laws (LL.M.)

September 2006 - June 2007 | New York University (NYU), USA | Law | Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Working Experience

January 2008-January 2010 | Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Beijing Representative Office | Associate

January 2010-January 2015 | Baker & McKenzie LLP, Beijing Representative Office | Senior Associate

January 2015-February 2017 | Luxottica (China) Investment Co., Ltd. | Legal Director

March 2017-January 2022 | Beijing DHH (Shanghai) Law Firm | Senior Partner, Executive Director

January 2022-Present | Hylands (Shanghai) Law Firm | Managing Partner, Leading Partner of Hylands National Committee on International Investment and M&A, Vice President of Hylands Law Institute

Professional Qualifications

Chinese Bar Qualification

New York State Bar Qualification (USA)

Professional Background

Jessie Yao graduated from Shanghai Jiao Tong University with a bachelor's degree in Law and a master's degree in International Law. She holds both the Chinese Bar Qualification and the New York State Bar Qualification (USA). Her core practice areas include domestic and cross-border investment and M&A, corporate matters, private equity and investment funds, and asset management. Having previously worked at the China representative offices of top-tier international law firms and large Chinese law firms for many years, she possesses both exceptional legal skills and comprehensive law firm management experience.

She has been recognized as one of the "2024 LEGALBAND China Lawyers Special Recommendation Top 15: Corporate Going Global," and has been consecutively listed in the

Chambers Asia-Pacific/Greater China Region "Corporate/Commercial" rankings from 2020 to 2024, the Chambers Global "Corporate/M&A" rankings from 2022 to 2023, and The Legal 500 Asia Pacific "Corporate/M&A" rankings from 2022 to 2023.

With seventeen years of extensive practice experience, Jessie Yao focuses on domestic and cross-border investment and M&A, private equity funds, legal matters related to the new economy, and complex domestic and cross-border commercial dispute resolution. Through years of providing legal services to domestic and international clients from various industries, Jessie Yao and her team have developed a diversified, client-centric approach. They are capable of providing reasonable, feasible, and innovative one-stop legal services to clients in complex cross-border, multi-jurisdictional, and cross-industry commercial transactions and dispute resolution projects.

Social Activities

January 2026-January 2030 | Legal Advisor | Shanghai Jiao Tong University Education Development Foundation

January 2026-January 2029 | Mediator | Shanghai Oriental International Commercial Mediation Center

May 2025-May 2027 | Arbitrator | The 7th Changzhou Arbitration Commission (Jiangsu New Energy Dispute Arbitration Center)

January 2026-December 2028 | Chief Legal Advisor | SJTU AI Future Fund & SJTU School of Artificial Intelligence

May 2026-April 2031 | Arbitrator | Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (Shanghai International Arbitration Center)

June 2024-December 2026 | Member | "Standing Committee of the 7th Shanghai Pudong New Area People's Congress-Committee on Overseas Chinese, Ethnic and Religious Affairs, and Foreign Affairs"

July 2024-June 2027 | Vice Chair | Shanghai Bar Association, 12th Session-Committee on International Investment and the Belt and Road

December 2023-December 2027 | Member | Shanghai Bar Association, 12th Session-Pudong Lawyers' Working Committee

January 2024-December 2027 | Member | Shanghai Bar Association, 12th Session-Foreign Affairs Committee

March 2023-December 2027 | Director | The 4th Council of Shanghai Pudong New Area Women Lawyers' Association

Honors and Awards

2025 | Selected for the Shanghai Eastern Talent Program-Top Talent Category | Shanghai Municipal Talent Work Bureau

2025 | Selected as Inaugural Dingxin Rule-of-Law Talent "Rising Star" | Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice

2024 | 2024 LEGALBAND China Lawyers Special Recommendation Top 15: Corporate Going Global | LEGALBAND

2024 | LegalOne 2024 China Region-LegalOne Client Trustworthy Lawyers: Top 15 in M&A | LegalOne

2024 | "IFLR 1000 China 2024 Edition-Shanghai Region "Highly Regarded" Lawyer" | IFLR

2024 | Lawsmmedia 2024 M&A Sector Brand Star-Leading Lawyer | Lawsmmedia

2023 | Chambers Greater China Region Legal Guide 2024-"Corporate/M&A (PRC Firms)" and "Corporate/Commercial: Shanghai (PRC Firms)"-Recognised Lawyer | Chambers and Partners

2023 | 2023 LegalOne Stellar Accolade (China Region) | LegalOne

2023 | The Legal 500 2024 Greater China Region Guide-Corporate M&A Recommended Lawyer | The Legal 500

2023 | 2023 LEGALBAND Client's Choice: Top 15 M&A Lawyers | LEGALBAND

2023 | Chambers Global Guide 2023-"Corporate/M&A (PRC Firms)"-Up and Coming Lawyer | Chambers and Partners

2023 | Chambers Greater China Region Legal Guide 2023-"Corporate/M&A (PRC Firms)" and "Corporate/Commercial: Shanghai (PRC Firms)"-Up and Coming Lawyer | Chambers and Partners

2022 | "Chambers Global Legal Guide 2022-"Corporate/M&A (PRC Firms)"-Up and Coming Lawyer" | Chambers and Partners

2022 | The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2022-"Corporate/M&A: PRC Firms, Tier 5"-Leading Lawyer | The Legal 500

2022 | Chambers Greater China Region Legal Guide 2022-"Corporate/M&A (PRC Firms)" and "Corporate/Commercial: Shanghai (PRC Firms)"-Up and Coming Lawyer | Chambers and Partners

Representative Cases

International Investment M&A

Provided long-term legal advisory services for China Electric Equipment Group Asset Management Co., Ltd.

Provided long-term legal advisory services for China Electric Equipment Group Supply Chain Technology Co., Ltd.

Provided long-term legal advisory services for Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Co., Ltd.

Provided special legal services for Shanghai Shangyan Cultural Investment Management Co., Ltd. for the "Arcane" Immersive Music Show

Provided legal services for China Development Bank Shanghai Branch on daily commercial banking legal matters

Provided legal services for Jiangsu Trina Smart Distributed Energy Co., Ltd. on e-commerce platform establishment and data compliance project

Provided full-process legal services for VeChain and other emerging internet technology companies on global structuring

Represented VeChain in business cooperation projects with well-known brands such as PwC, DNV GL, H&M, Huawei, etc., regarding blockchain technology and commercial applications

Provided full-process legal services for projects including the VeChain & BYD new energy vehicle carbon credit project, the VeChain & Walmart food traceability project, the

ToolChain project, the VeChainWorld project, and others

Provided long-term legal advisory services for China Electric Equipment Group Supply Chain Technology Co., Ltd.

Corporate

Provided legal services for a PRC energy group on its photovoltaic investment in Romania

Acted as lead counsel to Trina Solar in conducting legal due diligence for its PV-chain investments spanning Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Indonesia

Provided legal services to Hunan Construction Investment Real Estate Group Co., Ltd. for its real-estate development project in Sri Lanka

Acted for Trina Solar in issuing a compliance opinion regarding its participation in Armenia's Masrik-1 solar project

Provided full process legal services for a listed company's cross-border acquisition of semiconductor equity interests valued in the hundreds of millions across Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia

Provided legal services to Shanghai SIMIC Semiconductor Co., Ltd. on its capital increase

Provided comprehensive legal services to China Development Bank Shanghai Branch for the acquisition and development of New Zealand forestry assets and for the collateral review and enforcement related to the NZ 2M forestry project.

Provide full-scale legal services for the cross-border merger and acquisition in the semiconductor industry valued at several hundred million RMB, led by Shanghai Sian Micro Technology Group.

Provided specialized legal counsel to China Financial Information Center (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. on its RMB 1 billion-plus capital increase

Provided targeted legal services for the multi-million-RMB cross-border asset transaction of Wanyi Industrial (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

Private Equity and Investment Funds

Provided full-process legal services for the Pre-A financing of Chui Yuan Medical Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

Provided legal services for the mother fund system construction project of Guizhou Qian Sheng State-owned Assets Management Co., Ltd.

Strategic cooperation project between Wenzhou Daluoshan Fund Angel Village Operation Management Co., Ltd. regarding the Wenzhou Daluoshan Fund Village project

Provided legal services for government-guided funds such as Wenzhou Science & Technology Innovation Venture Capital Fund and Shenzhen Angel Investment Guide Fund

Provided full-process legal services for Shanghai Hongsheng regarding equity transfer matters

Provided full-process legal services for Jiaxing Zhaibang regarding equity transfer matters

Provided legal services for Ping An Bank Co., Ltd. Wuhan Branch regarding cross-border asset due diligence and fund exit matters for the Changxin Hesheng Fund it invested in

Provide legal services for the establishment of the Phase II SJTU Fund-of-Funds project.

Provided legal services for Hunan International Cooperation Private Equity Fund Management Co., Ltd. regarding a cross-border real estate development project

Provided legal services for Nanhong Capital regarding its hundreds of millions RMB Series B investment in Meihua Biotechnology
