



Scott Thiel

Partner

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Scott Thiel is Asia Head of DLA Piper's Global Technology and FinTech sector initiative. He advises clients on all aspects of technology related procurements and outsourcing deals and has particular experience on regulatory issues associated with payments clearing and platforms, e-commerce settlements and cross-border payment services offerings..

Scott's background in engineering and dual qualifications in both intellectual property law and computer science provide him with a unique opportunity to understand the technical aspects of client's ICT and outsourcing projects. An understanding of the issues faced by both sides of a transaction enables Scott to seek innovative solutions to resolve negotiation deadlocks and deliver completed deals for his clients.

He advises both users and suppliers of IT outsourcing services on all aspects of the procurement process. He also advises on complex technology transactions. His work usually involves him on business critical projects frequently valued in the tens or hundreds of millions of dollars. He advises clients across a range of sectors including technology, banking, transport, energy and sport.

Scott's technology focus is of extra importance at DLA Piper as he leads a number of tech-related initiatives within the firm, such as being a leader within DLA Piper's Blockchain and Digital Assets practice group and also being the firm's representative on the Hedera Hashgraph Governing Council - a next generation public distributed ledger technology infrastructure through which DLA Piper is hosting a node. He is a non-executive director of the Hedera Hashgraph and the Founder and product champion for TOKO, a subsidiary of DLA Piper that has developed a tokenization engine and digital asset platform.

- Intellectual Property and Technology

- Technology

English

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English

- Advising Cathay Pacific Airlines on the creation of a framework IT services contract to certify and implement electronic flight bags across the entire Cathay fleet of aircraft

- Advising Neosystems on a project management software hosting agreement to support a major aircraft development project in China
- Advising Dragonair on the outsourcing of all services associated with the launch of a new crew uniform including the design, production and supply chain management
- Advising Cathay Pacific Airlines on the establishment of a dual vendor outsourced services arrangement for cargo handling services at the new Hong Kong cargo facility
- Advising HCL on its successful bid and the conclusion of contracts with eircom to provide call centre outsourcing services
- Lead external adviser to National Australia Group Europe in relation to the outsourcing of a range of service requirements including desktop support arrangements, data centre relocation project, ATM support requirements and the procurement of its front-end replacement solution

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Solicitor of the High Court of Hong Kong

Recognitions

- Ranked as a leading individual in the area of TMT - China (International Firms) by *Chambers and Partners* 2013-2022
- Ranked as a leading individual in the area of FinTech Legal (International Firms) – China by *Chambers and Partners* 2022
- *Chambers and Partners* 2022: "Scott Thiel brings a rare combination of commercial understanding, technical excellence and personal affability to the table," lauds a client. He is considered a "fantastic performer" by another interviewee."
- *Legal 500 Hong Kong: TMT*, 2019: "Combining IP knowledge with computer science expertise, team head Scott Thiel has a unique insight into IT work; he is regularly at the forefront of the most significant mandates handled by the team."
- *Legal 500 Hong Kong: TMT*, 2022: "Thiel is also at the leading edge of fintech-related work and was one of the key partners behind the development of the firm's own foray into the blockchain market with the launch of its TOKO product – a unique tokenisation engine which facilitates the buying and selling of high value assets using blockchain technology."

Education

- Monash University, LL.M (Intellectual Property), 1998
- Melbourne University, LL.B. 1995
- University of Melbourne, BSc. 1995

INSIGHTS

Publications

Non-fungible tokens: What are the legal risks?

18 October 2021

The market for Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) has boomed over the past year. Businesses and asset owners have been creating and selling NFTs representing a range of assets, whether digital or physical, including internet memes, digital images, event tickets and memorabilia.

Episode 12: More obligations on Chinese mobile app operators to comply with

9 April 2020

Navigating China: The digital journey

Following the crackdown by Chinese authorities against non-compliant mobile apps in late 2019 (please see Episode 8 in this series), the authorities have issued a series of app compliance guidelines (including the Guide to Self-Assess Illegal Collection and Use of Personal Information by Apps, Methods for Identifying Unlawful Acts of Apps to Collect and Use Personal Information, and Draft Specification for Collecting Personal Information in Mobile Applications). These guidelines imposed detailed obligations and practical actions to urge mobile app operators to conduct self-assessments and to rectify any non-compliant data processing practices. Organisations may have noted that some of these guidelines contain conflicting requirements.

Episode 11: Important clarifications and changes to China's data privacy standards

27 March 2020

Navigating China: The digital journey

Important updates to China's de facto data privacy regulations will come into force on 1 October 2020. The amendments to the Personal Information Security Specification (PIS Specification) comprise important clarifications rather than substantial changes to the existing regulations.

Episode 10: Stricter data localisation and security rules for financial and insurance data in China

06 Mar 2020

Navigating China: The digital journey

The People's Bank of China has released new guidelines on the collection and processing of personal financial information (PFI Guidelines), which provide much-needed clarity on how personal financial information in China should be processed, secured, and transferred. While the PFI Guidelines do not impose an outright ban on personal financial information leaving China, mandatory compliance steps (including consent and impact assessments) must be taken.

Important changes proposed to Hong Kong's data protection law

27 February 2020

Any organisation processing Hong Kong personal data must plan ahead to anticipate significant new compliance obligations requirements. These are proposed in a recent consultation paper to amend Hong Kong's Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (PDPO), and would – if passed – constitute the first changes to the PDPO since 2012.

- "Outsourcing: A Practical Guide", *Globe Law and Business*, September 2015
- Co-Author, and Asia lead author on the soon to be released Cybertrak product summarizing and comparing e-security laws across multiple jurisdictions.

Events

Previous

COVID-19: The Age of Viral Outbreaks – Impact on Outsourced Functions and Relationships

30 March 2020

Webinar: Skyscrapers for the masses: Real Estate Tokenisation and the future of STOs

25 March 2020
Webinar

NEWS

DLA Piper and Aldersgate DLS launch TOKO, a fast, secure and cost effective solution for buying and selling high value assets using blockchain technology

5 November 2020

Global law firm DLA Piper in collaboration with Aldersgate DLS (Digital Ledger Solutions), has launched TOKO, a unique tokenisation engine and vital component in the digital asset ecosystem. Developed with Aldersgate DLS, TOKO provides smart contract functionality and digital asset creation functionality and assurance.
