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Richard Grasby
Partner
Charles Russell Speechlys

Leading Law Firm Eyes Set on High Net Worth Clients in Hong Kong

Leading law firm Charles Russell Speechlys opens new Hong Kong office, entering the market in association with Jonathan Mok Legal to offer expert advice to high net worth clients

Headquartered in London with offices in the UK, Europe and the Middle East, Charles Russell Speechlys has recently opened its first Asia office in Hong Kong, in association with Hong Kong Lawyer Jonathan Mok, to offer an integrated private client and commercial service to successful entrepreneurial and family businesses, the creators and owners of private wealth and their advisors and financiers.

Hong Kong's strong synergies with English law - particularly family law - mean that the firm's choice in setting the first Asia office in Hong Kong allows the firm to support the Hong Kong office with the depth of London-based experience, according to Richard Grasby, Partner of Charles Russell Speechlys and leader of the office's private client practice. In addition, Grasby finds Hong Kong easy to do business and a magnet for entrepreneurial family business. Jonathan Mok from Jonathan Mok Legal in association with Charles Russell Speechlys, added, "Hong Kong has a number of longstanding wealthy families. The Pacific region is predicted to see a 91 percent increase in ultra-high net worth individuals between 2016 and 2026 and Hong Kong will be one of the centres of that growth."

The Hong Kong office has five lawyers who are responsible for private client practice and family and dispute practice, with Ashley King-Christopher joining from London as the new office's resident Partner. Also, lawyers from other Charles Russell Speechlys offices have regular visits to Hong Kong with other disciplines, such as UK property advice, UK tax advice, inbound investment into the UK and continental Europe, together with UK, French, Swiss and Luxembourg investment funds advice, all working under one firm. Under this arrangement, clients can have a single contact point that can co-ordinate the advice amongst different offices and service lines.

Before setting up the office in Hong Kong, the Charles Russell Speechlys' London office got in touch with InvestHK's London office. The Business and Professional Services team based in Hong Kong then assisted the firm with market intelligence and networking opportunities.

Grasby finds Hong Kong very vibrant and energetic. The city combines the old and the new, the east and the west and is an enjoyable place to live. With an open, welcoming and multicultural population, Hong Kong provides an unrivalled blend of different cultures and cuisine.

"Hong Kong is a very modern city in terms of connectivity and infrastructure. The strong infrastructure links to many global hubs make the city a unique place for a UK law firm planning to expand into Mainland China and the region," Grasby concluded.

Charles Russell Speechlys

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- Five lawyers in the Hong Kong office who are responsible for private client practice and family and disputes practice

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