

Mr Andrew Hallworth

Call: 2002

Andrew is a gifted linguist, having originally obtained a degree in Mandarin Chinese and Japanese, before going on to study law

Before embarking on a career with the leading law firm Clifford Chance, Andrew secured an internship at China's first non-state law firm in Beijing. There he was involved in assisting resident Chinese counsel to advise on novel queries raised by foreign investors, as well as assisting in the drafting of Chinese legal opinions for sign-off by the Chinese law partners

Clifford Chance

Andrew then began working at Clifford Chance, starting in London on aircraft financing deals for large-scale aircraft and engine providers, as well as stints in general project financing. Part of his training involved a six-month secondment at Clifford Chance's Hong Kong office, where he was introduced to all things corporate and commercial in China

His final role in London was to assist in defending, at arbitration, the Government of Kuwait against a collective action for damages by certain American companies who had been responsible for fire-fighting the oil wells at the conclusion of the first Gulf War

Andrew qualified directly into the Hong Kong office, where he honed his skills in Chinese corporate and commercial matters. In particular, he was involved directly in the establishment of China's first private telecoms joint venture (on behalf of US company Motorola), and China's first joint venture insurance company (on behalf of Canadian company Manulife)

In 1997, Andrew moved to Clifford Chance in Shanghai to specialise in mergers and acquisitions. To that end, he took over the exclusive management and control of legal aspects of Unilever's China business. In

particular, he was responsible for a prototype “asset purchase” of an existing Chinese business with detailed warranties, and a “lock-in” of the previous Chinese owner for public relations purposes

In addition, he was the lead legal player in the establishment of China’s first super company limited by shares, following a merger of four of Unilever’s Chinese joint ventures into a newly established shell company, for subsequent listing on the Shanghai stock exchange

International Law

Andrew returned to the UK in 2000, where, after qualifying as a barrister, he spent a year studying for a Masters Degree in Law at Cambridge University. The course covered various aspects of international criminal law and procedure

In particular, it involved a detailed analysis of the International Criminal Court in the very year that the Court was formally established, after a wait of over 50 years

Areas of Practice

Andrew’s practice began in the area of general crime, with a familiar focus on violence and drugs cases. More recently, Andrew has moved towards developing a focus on fraud cases, profiting from the commercial and corporate experience he obtained at one of the world’s premier law firms

He continues to use his Chinese language whenever possible, and has represented many Chinese clients in areas as diverse as counterfeiting and smuggling, kidnap and people trafficking, extortion and blackmail, and serious drugs cases and money laundering

Fraud and Dishonesty

- Cases involving VAT Fraud, as well as income tax fraud and other tax frauds

- Property and mortgage fraud, including one case involving issues of bare and discretionary trusts, and allegations of misleading receivers and bankers, and another involving multiple false identities to secure huge mortgage loans
- A movie equipment hire fraud, straddling the UK, North America, Africa and Asia, encompassing multiple frauds committed over a sustained period
- A case of blackmail against an ex-premier league footballer

Proceeds of Crime

- Countless proceeds of crime cases, either stand alone, or arising out of fraud and drugs cases, including cases involving:
 - Complicated issues of cross-jurisdictional trust law (English and a third party country), as well as third party claims
 - Attempts by the Crown to seek variation of confiscation orders, and claw back additional sources of income after former defendants inherited substantial sums after the event

Violence

The full gamut of cases of violence, including numerous acquittals in cases of murder (as junior), and armed robberies (guns, knives and cash-in-transit cases), GBH, kidnap, aggravated burglaries and serious public disorder offences

Drugs

All aspects of drugs cases, including numerous multi-handed multi-kilo drugs cases, often involving cross-jurisdictional issues, as well as the now familiar issues of telephone attribution, cell-siting, observation evidence and the associated “public interest immunity” legal arguments for disclosure of covert recordings.