



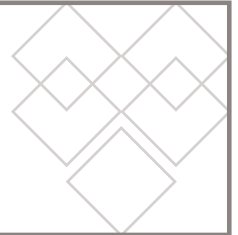
Financial Services Regulation 2025



PROFILED:

WILLIAM R. HALLATT

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher



GIBSON DUNN



Financial Services
Regulation



WILLIAM R. HALLATT

Partner

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Hong Kong

T: +852 2214 3836

E: whallatt@gibsondunn.com

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

William Hallatt is a partner in the Hong Kong office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. He is co-chair of the firm's financial regulatory practice group and head of the Asia-Pacific financial regulatory practice group. His full-service financial services regulatory practice provides comprehensive contentious and advisory support as a trusted adviser to the world's leading financial institutions. His clients include global investment banks, wholesale and retail banks, hedge funds, private wealth managers, investment managers, insurers, cryptocurrency exchanges and major FinTech firms.

GIBSON DUNN

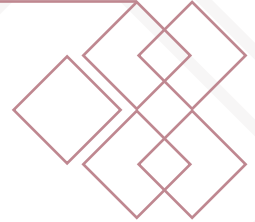
REPRINT

**WILLIAM R. HALLATT**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher



Q&A WITH WILLIAM R. HALLATT

**What standout moments in your career have significantly shaped your professional journey?**

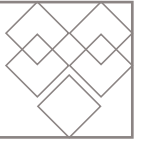
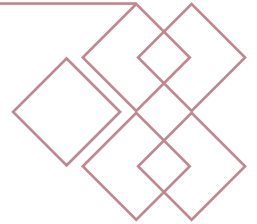
◆ Moving to Hong Kong in 2008 from London profoundly reshaped my career and my personal worldview. Being immersed in such a vibrant, international city expanded not only my legal skills but also my understanding of cross-cultural dynamics, shaping me both professionally and personally. Joining Gibson Dunn in 2021 was another defining moment, offering me the opportunity to collaborate with exceptional colleagues and take on challenging, sophisticated matters that pushed me to grow. Most meaningfully for me, though, has been building and nurturing a truly talented team. Developing and mentoring these individuals, and seeing them thrive, has genuinely been the highlight and key differentiator for our practice. Their growth inspires me every day and reinforces the importance of investing personally in people.

What qualities and values do you believe are essential for building strong, trusting relationships with clients?

◆ To me, building strong, trusting relationships with clients means truly investing in understanding them – not just their business, but also the pressures they face and what genuinely matters to them personally. Clients deeply appreciate when you proactively save them time, anticipate their needs and clearly recognise what is expected from both sides. They want an adviser who provides meaningful insight and a clear viewpoint, not just technical explanations of the law. Ultimately, trust is proven in those critical moments, when things go wrong and the client reaches out, you know you have become their trusted adviser. That is why I always pick up the phone; being there when it matters most is the hallmark of trust.

**WILLIAM R. HALLATT**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

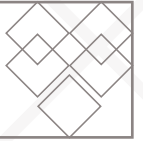
**Looking ahead, what are your predictions for this area of the market?
What key developments are on the horizon?**

◆ In my experience, financial regulation and enforcement is an area defined by constant change and rapid developments. Recently, as globalisation retreats and geopolitical tensions escalate, I have observed firsthand how increased sanctions, expanding trade controls and strained cooperation between regulators pose significant challenges for financial markets. The rapid rise of digital assets further adds complexity, presenting exciting opportunities but also significant regulatory questions. Looking ahead, I anticipate the regulatory landscape will become increasingly fragmented, potentially leading to more regulatory arbitrage as jurisdictions diverge in their approaches. Successfully navigating this fragmented environment will demand not just deep regulatory insight, but also strong relationships with global regulators. My focus is on helping clients bridge these divides and strategically manage complexity, positioning them to thrive amid uncertainty. ■

“AS GLOBALISATION RETREATS AND GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS ESCALATE, I HAVE OBSERVED FIRSTHAND HOW INCREASED SANCTIONS, EXPANDING TRADE CONTROLS AND STRAINED COOPERATION BETWEEN REGULATORS POSE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES FOR FINANCIAL MARKETS.”

**WILLIAM R. HALLATT**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

**REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS**

- ◆ Advising major virtual asset firms, including leading virtual asset exchanges, on regulatory and compliance matters, including potential licensing applications in Asia.
- ◆ Advising ASIFMA in relation to recent proposed enforcement reforms by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).
- ◆ Advising the central bank of a major jurisdiction in the Middle East on a review of its enforcement framework.
- ◆ Advising several major financial institutions on the implementation of senior management accountability regimes.
- ◆ Advising several large international investment banks on multiple separate investigations by the SFC and the HKMA into systems and controls failures.
- ◆ Advising several leading virtual asset exchanges on investigations by regulatory authorities in key jurisdictions across Asia.
- ◆ Advising UBS in relation to the 2019 enforcement action brought by the SFC against it and a number of other leading investment banks in relation to their roles as sponsor on several Hong Kong IPOs.

