

Investigations & White-Collar Crime



PROFILED:

KEITH WILLIAMSON

Alvarez & Marsal Disputes and Investigations Limited





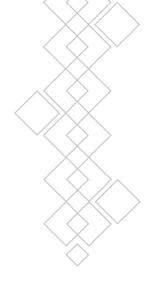


Investigations & White-Collar Crime



KEITH WILLIAMSON

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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Keith Williamson is a managing director with Alvarez & Marsal and leads the firm's disputes and investigations team in Hong Kong and China. He has more than 25 years of forensic and investigative accounting experience, specialising in investigations and compliance reviews of fraud, corruption and regulatory issues, asset tracing and recovery, and litigation support and expert witness services for disputes. He earned a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Birmingham. He is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.





KEITH WILLIAMSON Alvarez & Marsal Disputes and Investigations Limited



Q&A WITH KEITH WILLIAMSON

Are you active in any programmes or initiatives within your organisation? To what extent have you found this work rewarding and fulfilling?

Over the past few years, our Hong Kong and China teams have become much more involved in supporting community and charitable activities, including the provision of pro bono accounting services. We first provided pro bono forensic accounting services to a charity that seeks to assist foreign domestic workers that have been the victims of labour exploitation and human trafficking. More recently we have been involved in helping a relatively young charity that looks to empower, educate and connect women and girls to realise their aspirations through sports. Pro bono support has ranged from setting up a new accounting system and providing advice on accounting policies to devising financial internal controls, policies and procedures and ensuring strong corporate governance. I have found it extremely rewarding to see the benefits that the charities have gained from our assistance, and the satisfaction and experience it has provided our team giving this support.

In what ways do you endeavour to support the career development of your colleagues rising through the ranks?

♦ As a leader I feel it is my responsibility and key to the long-term success and sustainability of the team to support the career development of every colleague. Part of this support is provided through trying to act as a good role model – consistently demonstrating the integrity, skills and behaviours that are important for career development, and calling out and counselling against bad actions or behaviours. It is also provided through offering opportunities for individuals to develop their technical and soft skills through new challenging projects, enhanced responsibility

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on projects, and other chances to step outside of their comfort zone, such as presenting findings to a client or delivering a seminar to an audience. It is also important to give individuals support for new ideas and initiatives, to acknowledge but not punish honest mistakes, and provide constructive feedback when it is important to address issues for their longer-term development.

What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?

♦ Most of the situations we assist our clients with are crises that they will not have experienced before, such as a law enforcement or regulatory investigation, so first and foremost we strive to be empathetic to the challenges faced and provide comfort that we have the resources, skills and experience to assist them in navigating the crisis. We seek to have a senior experienced leader of the team who is always sufficiently apprised of the details of the project to provide timely feedback when required by the client, and to take strong positions or decisions when needed to best represent or protect the client. It is important that we perform our work with integrity and objectivity based on facts and evidence, and that we earn the trust and respect of the client. We strive to be respectful, responsive and a collaborative partner that, despite the circumstances, the client enjoys working with.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE PERFORM OUR WORK WITH INTEGRITY AND OBJECTIVITY BASED ON FACTS AND EVIDENCE, AND THAT WE EARN THE TRUST AND RESPECT OF THE CLIENT."



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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- Leading forensic accounting investigations of allegations of US FCPA violations in China and Singapore.
- Performing an investigation of short seller allegations relating to the China operations of a US-headquartered business.
- Leading an investigation and financial restatement exercise responding to short seller allegations for the Asia operations of a listed European company.
- Acting as a compliance monitor for a Chinese state-owned enterprise on behalf of a multilateral development bank.
- Acting as an expert witness in relation to Hong Kong financial services litigation and regulatory action.
- Leading an anti-money laundering assurance review of a Macanese institution reporting to the US Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).
- Managing a team of accountants and lawyers administering and investigating the assets comprising the multi-billion-dollar estate of a Hong Kong businessman involved in property development.



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