

The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute Enhanced Continuing Professional Development (ECPD) Training

Economic Substance in the British Virgin Islands: FAQs + What's New

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Speaker:

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Mr Leon Mao is a senior lawyer who is currently Head of the Advisory Services Team based in Vistra North Asia's Hong Kong and Shanghai offices. He deals with developing client solutions, including legal, regulatory compliance, tax, trusts/fiduciary and human resources, towards supporting Vistra's North Asia service lines and client portfolio. His current workscope includes internal legal advice, new services development and risk control, as well as process-optimisation. Regarding regulatory matters, his experience includes AML, CRS, FATCA, BEPS CbC Reporting and Economic Substance.

Trained in the West and based in Greater China as an offshore legal specialist, his 30 years' career focus has been on private client, family office, corporate/commercial and funds advice. His career blends commerciality and risk management, with exposure up to Regional Partner and Regional Director level in legal firms and integrated corporate services platforms. Prior to his current Vistra role, he was a Partner at Harneys and Counsel at Appleby, as well as Head of Trusts and Inhouse Counsel at First Advisory Group (Hong Kong/ Zurich) and Head of Family Business and Wealth Solutions at TMF Group.

He holds Bachelor of Arts and Laws, and Master of Philosophy (Foreign Investment Law) degrees. He is currently admitted as a Solicitor of the BVI Eastern Caribbean Court, and he is an accredited Trust and Estate Practitioner with STEP. He is a Solicitor, England and Wales and Legal Practitioner in New South Wales, Australia (both currently non-practising), and formerly practised Cayman Islands and Bermuda laws under Hong Kong registered foreign law firm arrangements.