

Press Release

Hampton, Winter and Glynn Expands French Desk to Serve Hong Kong's Rapidly Growing Ex-Pat Community

Family law practitioner, Helen Ladret, a solicitor in England and Hong Kong and Avocat à la cour in France, boosts growing team

Hong Kong, 10 July 2012 – Hampton, Winter and Glynn, a pioneer in family law, with the largest multicultural Family Law Practice in Hong Kong, has expanded its French Desk to serve the needs of Hong Kong's large, French expatriate community – the second largest European population in Hong Kong after the British, and growing at around 10 per cent per annum.

Helen Ladret, one of only three solicitors in the SAR to be qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales, and Hong Kong and an Avocat à la cour in France, has joined Hampton, Winter and Glynn's award-winning Family Law Practice. She is much in demand on the firm's expanding French Desk since she is fluent in both French and English, covers the three jurisdictions of Hong Kong, France and England, and is an experienced family law practitioner.

According to the French Consulate there are some 15,000 French people in Hong Kong, although the real figure could be as high as 20,000. These figures do not include French-speaking Belgians and Swiss, nor the large number of Hong Kong residents who have property or business interests in France.

"Hong Kong has a large, thriving and growing French community," said Helen Ladret. "As with any mature expatriate community, these people find themselves working, bringing up families, or studying in a different country, and when personal legal issues come up, they want to talk to a lawyer with both local and international experience, in their native language. Over the past two years, our caseload has increased exponentially."

Hampton, Winter and Glynn provides tailor-made advice to both businesses and entrepreneurs, and its clients range from local individuals and companies to multinational companies, financial institutions, banks and trading and manufacturing groups.

Although Hong Kong has several corporate law firms which serve the business needs of French organisations operating in the region, only Hampton, Winter and Glynn has two lawyers qualified in France, England and Wales and the Hong Kong SAR.

Helen has worked across Europe and Asia. She is highly experienced in the fields of family law, cross-border contentious probate and trusts law. She trained as a solicitor in Europe and Asia with Linklaters LLP and worked for

the firm in London, Frankfurt, Tokyo and Paris. She is a member of the Hong Kong Family Law Association and the Hong Kong Collaborative Practice Group. She is a Collaborative Lawyer, trained in Europe and Hong Kong.

“In the past decade, the number of French companies running business operations in Hong Kong has increased by 59 per cent,” said Jean-Yves Toullec, Solicitor, Avocat a la Cour and Head of the French Desk at Hampton, Winter and Glynn. “Today, there are around 600 French-related companies in Hong Kong, employing 40,000 people. Many of these people need help – from small things like contracts and visas to larger matters such as divorce and custody-related issues. Our strong French Desk is here to support them.”

Notes to editor:

1. More than 100 new French citizens arrive in Hong Kong every month. (Source: S'installer a Hong Kong, produced by the French chamber of commerce, latest ed. Sept 2010)
2. More than 150 French babies were born in Hong Kong in 2011 (French Consulate (<http://www.consulfrance-hongkong.org/-Carnet-blanc-et-rose->))
3. A new double tax treaty between France and Hong Kong came into force on 1st December 2011. This simplifies cross-border taxation and is a further plus for people with connections to both countries.

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About Hampton, Winter and Glynn

Hampton Winter and Glynn (www.hwg-law.com) was established in Hong Kong in 1972. A pioneer in family law and with the largest, multicultural Family Practice in Hong Kong, the firm advises on all aspects of Hong Kong law. Its clients range from local individuals and companies to multinational companies, financial institutions, banks and trading and manufacturing groups. In 1997, the firm was appointed the Hong Kong member of ALFA International, an international association of independent law firms with members in the United States, the European Community, Asia, Australia and other major financial centres around the world. The firm has been named by *Asian Legal Business* as Matrimonial Law Firm of the year for nine consecutive years, from 2003 to 2011.

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