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**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Associate Member Governor
Board of Governors 2020-2021**



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Affiliation: Freelance Consultant/Writer

Being a member of the Foreign Correspondents' Club community is one of the great pleasures and privileges of my life in Hong Kong. Having gained so much enjoyment from the Club, I would be honoured to have the opportunity to serve you as a member of the board of governors and help contribute to the Club's continued success.

I am proud of the Club and its recent achievements: the Club has been a lively platform for freedom of expression and forum for the exchange of ideas; played a leading education and mentoring role; and during last year's events the Club offered a welcoming home to media visiting from around the world. The Club has also advocated for the rights of journalists and freedom of the press, a role that I see as vital at a time when those rights and freedoms are increasingly under threat in Hong Kong.

I do not see any need for radical change. The FCC has been well governed, and operating smoothly under general manager Didier Saugy. However, a fresh perspective can always be valuable. I wear a number of different hats: a member of the legal profession; a source for many correspondent/journalist members of the Club; and a writer and commentator participating in the public conversation in Hong Kong. This combination of roles may enable me to bring some helpful perspectives to the Club.

As a corporate lawyer with 20 years' experience advising at the board level, including for major Hong Kong-listed companies, private companies and charities, I hope that my knowledge can contribute to the work of the board and governance of the Club. My professional experience in financial analysis and risk management may also be helpful as the Club looks to navigate its way safely through the Covid-19 storm.

Managing relations with the government will be important as we approach upcoming lease renewal negotiations. Certainty on this issue will provide a sound basis on which to consider a refreshment of our historic premises as part of the ongoing master-plan process. I believe there is an opportunity to improve our facilities and optimise our space utilisation, for example to make our working spaces more user-friendly. Finally, I believe the Club can further enhance its role as a forum for arts and culture, and I hope to re-energise the Club in this area.

About me: I moved to Hong Kong in 1999. Across a 20-year legal career here, I worked first with London-headquartered firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, then in 2010 joined New York-headquartered firm Davis Polk as a founding partner of that firm's Hong Kong law practice, and finally from 2017 through 2019 held a senior position at New York firm Skadden. In my legal practice I focused on corporate law, in particular capital markets, M&A, and regulatory compliance. From 2017 onwards I have increasingly focused my time on writing, and now work as a freelance consultant and writer. I have published two books on Hong Kong, and write widely on Chinese and Hong Kong politics, business and culture for publications including *The Atlantic*, *New Statesman*, *Foreign Policy* and others. I am fluent in Chinese (Putonghua).