Kennedys is a vibrant practice. The firm has expanded considerably over the last 10 years, largely as a result of organic growth and lateral hires made to strengthen key areas of expertise.

Our culture is one where partners work collaboratively with each other and where we undertake work because we enjoy it. We live by our core values, namely that we are approachable, supportive, straightforward and distinctive. Perhaps the client quote that best encapsulates why Kennedys is different is: “they are calm, they smile, they’re normal!”
Our work – a global practice

We are one of the leading litigation firms in Hong Kong and the majority of our partners are dedicated to the conduct and resolution of disputes, whether by negotiation, litigation, arbitration or mediation. Our experienced litigation teams handle all aspects of dispute resolution work with a focus on the insurance industry, including financial lines and professional negligence, as well as cross-jurisdictional litigation, white collar crime and regulatory investigations. We have a leading healthcare practice handling medical negligence and disciplinary investigations, as well as aviation and casualty/liability teams and an established corporate practice, including employment and commercial law specialists.

Kennedys is a truly global firm, with offices in the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. This gives trainees the possibility of completing secondments in different offices within our global network. Such secondment opportunities also continue on qualification as an Associate at Kennedys.

Despite our large global presence, the Hong Kong office, established in February 2000, remains crucial for our continued growth, being well placed to cross-refer and manage work across Kennedys’ global network.

Our training programme

From day one until completion of your training contract you will partake in a structured and dedicated training programme, where you will be given a mix of practical experience and training to prepare you to qualify as associates with Kennedys.

Upon joining the firm trainees are paired with a mentor, usually a Kennedys trained mid-level to senior associate. The mentor acts as the go to person for you to obtain help and guidance and we also have a partner dedicated to overseeing your training contract.

In order to develop your skills in both contentious and non-contentious work across various practice areas, you will be assigned to four six-month seats with a senior associate or partner acting as your training supervisor during your time in the particular seat. Their experience and guidance will ensure that you are challenged with a varied and high-quality workload. An appraisal on your performance will be conducted at the end of each six-month seat. We have an open-door policy and partner and senior associate supervisors are readily accessible.

You will be given responsibility early on. We also encourage trainees, in appropriate circumstances, to continue to work on some of the existing matters when they have moved seats, so that they can work on a case or transaction.

In addition to the possibility of secondments to an overseas office, you may also be asked to complete a client secondment. Further, our trainees, with appropriate support and training, are given opportunities to present at client seminars and networking events.

In addition to Continuing Professional Development and Risk Management Education courses required by the Law Society of Hong Kong, you will be given the opportunity to attend in-house and external training seminars.

Social events and CSR

We encourage our trainees to get involved with charity, sports and social events. We enjoy team and office events, on occasion overseas, so you can get to know your colleagues outside of the workplace.

We also involve our trainees in a range of CSR activities, including pro-bono legal advice and charity fundraising initiatives/volunteer work.

Salary and benefits

We offer a competitive salary and benefit package including private medical insurance.

Summer vacation scheme

We offer a two-week paid summer vacation scheme throughout June to August. Vacation scheme students are paired with a mentor, usually a Kennedys trained associate. The mentor will ensure the student is given varied and high-quality work. Successful students on the vacation scheme will be invited to an interview for a training contract.

Application method

The application process for training contracts and the summer vacation scheme is the same:

- Simply email your cover letter explaining why you want to join Kennedys, with your CV and transcripts (high school and university) to hong_kong_hr@kennedyslaw.com.
- All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Personal data collected during recruitment is collected for that purpose only. Personal data of unsuccessful applicants will not be retained after the recruitment exercise.
- Successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview. There are two separate progressive interviews. The first consists of a written test and meeting with two partners. Successful interviewees will be invited for a second interview where they will be asked to give an oral presentation to two partners.

Deadlines

We are now recruiting trainee solicitors for our July 2021 training contract. The application deadline for July 2021 training contracts is 30 November 2019.