



Cedric D. Chao

Mr. Chao is the co-chair of the firm's international arbitration practice. He focuses on business litigation, international commercial arbitration, and complex criminal matters.

Prior to joining Morrison & Foerster, Mr. Chao worked as a federal prosecutor for 3-1/2 years. He has first-chaired numerous jury and court trials in both commercial and criminal matters, and has taken or defended hundreds of depositions. He has argued ten times before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, including once to an en banc panel; once before the U.S. Supreme Court; and three times before the California State Court of Appeal. He has second-chaired three additional Ninth Circuit arguments and one other U.S. Supreme Court argument.

Mr. Chao has led litigation teams in significant international and domestic commercial arbitration proceedings under the rules of the American Arbitration Association (both domestic and international arbitrations), the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC"), the London Court of International Arbitration, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law ("UNCITRAL"), and Judicial Arbitration Mediation Services ("JAMS"), and has advised a team appearing before the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission ("CIETAC"). He is listed on the panels of approved international commercial arbitrators maintained by CIETAC and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("SIAC"), and has served as an ICC and SIAC arbitrator.

Mr. Chao's criminal defense practice has ranged from conducting internal corporate investigations to defending corporations and corporate officers in connection with a wide range of alleged violations. He successfully represented an individual prosecuted for cultivating 5,600 mature marijuana plants on a farm in Mendocino County, California, described by the authorities at the time of the arrests as the largest marijuana operation in Northern California history.

Mr. Chao currently serves as a member of China SF's advisory board; an adviser to the American Law Institute project to draft the Restatement of the U.S. Law of International Commercial Arbitration; president of the Northern California International Arbitration Club; member of the board of directors of Lex Mundi; North American jurisdictional member of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association; steering committee member of the ICC Arbitration Committee for the Northwest U.S.; and secretary of the board of directors of the Hong Kong Association of Northern California. He has been recommended as a leading lawyer by several publications, including *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers of America*, and *Asialaw*.