

Overriding Mandatory Rules in International Commercial Disputes

A book talk with Dr Min Kyung Kim

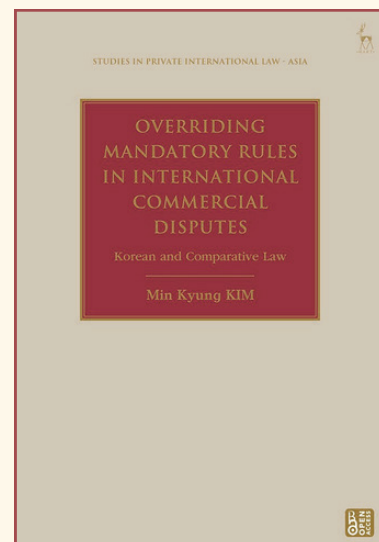


3 Oct 2025 (Fri)

18:00 – 19:00



**The Former French Mission Building,
1 Battery Path, Central, Hong Kong**



Party autonomy is not absolute. The freedom to choose the applicable law for a contract is limited by overriding mandatory rules, which apply regardless of the parties' choice. These rules pose significant risks to contractual rights and obligations, especially when identifying them proves difficult. *Overriding Mandatory Rules in International Commercial Disputes* (Hart, 2025) by Dr Min Kyung Kim examines some of most challenging questions in private international law: What are overriding mandatory rules, and how do they differ from other mandatory rules? How do courts apply overriding mandatory rules of *lex fori*, *lex causae*, and from third countries? How does their application differ in international arbitration?

Drawing on legal history, case law, scholarly debate, and comparative analysis from Korea, the European Union (Rome I Regulation, Rome Convention), England, Germany, Switzerland, and international instruments such as the Hague Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts and the UNIDROIT Principles, Dr Kim critically examines existing approaches and offers clear and well-reasoned answers. She proposes a balancing test to reconcile stability, predictability, forum-state interests, and consistency across jurisdictions.

More information is available [HERE](#).



FREE Registration

Limited seats for in-person participation only

Language: English

Enquiries: events@aaail.org

ORGANISERS





Author

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Dr Min Kyung Kim is an arbitrator at Des Voeux Chambers and an Adjunct Professor at the City University of Hong Kong. She served as a judge of the Republic of Korea from 2010 to 2025, specialising in cross-border commercial matters. She is co-author of the *Korean Judiciary's Practice Guide on Arbitration-related Cases* (2018), *Commentary on the Korean Private International Law* (Thomson Reuters, 2023), and *Commentary on the Korean Arbitration Act* (Thomson Reuters, forthcoming 2026). From 2022 to 2025, she was a delegation member of the Korean judiciary to the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts (SIFoCC). Dr. Kim has published widely on private international law, commercial law, and arbitration law in reputable journals. She has taught courses on international commercial litigation and arbitration at The University of Hong Kong, the National University of Singapore, and Singapore Management University. She holds a BA, LL.M. and Ph.D. from Seoul National University, and an LL.M. from the University of Cambridge (Queens' College).



Moderator

Anselmo Reyes

International Judge
Singapore International Commercial Court

Anselmo Reyes practises as an arbitrator. He was a judge of the Hong Kong High Court from 2003 to 2012, overseeing the Construction and Arbitration List (2004-8) and the Commercial and Admiralty Lists (2008-12). He has been an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court since January 2015.