



Dear HKGALA Members and Supporters:

We are delighted to present the **Spring 2019 Edition** of our update newsletter to highlight some of our recent and upcoming events and activities.

In doing so, we would also like to take the opportunity to thank our **53 Supporting Firms** and approximately **800 individual members** for your ongoing support. You can view the full roster of Supporting Firms on our website at: www.hkgala.com/supportingfirms.

Release of HKGALA LGBT+ Legal Rights FAQs

In May, HKGALA announced the release of the first edition of **HKGALA's Frequently Asked Questions about Hong Kong LGBT+ Rights and Legal Issues**, available at www.hkgala.com/resources. The FAQs are intended to be a community resource to address some of the commonly-asked questions on the status of LGBT+ rights and legal issues in Hong Kong.

[Congratulations to LGBT+ Inclusion Award Winners and Index Participants](#)

HKGALA was delighted to be a supporting organization at Community Business' annual LGBT+ Inclusion Gala Dinner held on May 14th. We would like to congratulate all Index participants, award winners and finalists, several of whom are HKGALA Supporting Firms and members. A full list of the Index and award winners and finalists is available at: <https://www.communitybusiness.org/events/2019-hong-kong-lgbt-inclusion-gala-dinner>.

Quarterly Supporting Firms' Roundtables

We would like to thank Harneys, Allen & Overy, Skadden, Mayer Brown, and

Clifford Chance for hosting our recent Supporting Firms' Roundtables.

HKGALA in the News

HKGALA was featured in the following highlighted articles:

- **Law in Transition: QT v Director of Immigration in Context**, Hong Kong Lawyer (August 2018):
Link: <http://www.hk-lawyer.org/content/law-transition-qt-v-director-immigration-context>
- **Only Through the Collective Voice Can We Bring About Positive Change**, Asian Legal Business Magazine (October 2018):
Link: www.legalbusinessonline.com
- **Wally Suphap of Morgan Stanley Walks the Difficult Path of Fighting for LGBT+ Equality by Organizing HKGALA to Promote Corporate Diversity**, Hong Kong Economic Journal (October 2018):
Link: <https://www1.hkej.com/dailynews/article/id/1977144/>
- **Marc Rubinstein, HKGALA Co-Founder and Executive Committee Member, was a finalist for the 2018 LGBT+ Mentoring Award by the Community Business**, Community Business (May 2018):
Link: <https://www.communitybusiness.org/programmes-campaigns/2018-hong-kong-lgbt-inclusion-awards-finalists>

Recent Events

- **The Economist Pride and Prejudice** (May 29, 2019): HKGALA is pleased to have partnered with The Economist Events' 2019 Pride and Prejudice which took place on May 29th. This year's conference showcased how the fight for LGBT+ equality can bridge divides across Asia.
 - **Lunch Presentation by John E. Smith of Morrison & Foerster** (April 11, 2019): John E. Smith, co-head of Morrison & Foerster's National Security, Sanctions and Export Controls practice and former Director of OFAC came to Hong Kong to share his experiences being an LGBT+ lawyer in the US government and as a top law enforcement official through a lunch presentation jointly organized by Morrison & Foerster, HKGALA and the HK LGBT+ Interbank Forum.
 - **Urban Light - Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery Panel Discussion** (April 10, 2019): HKGALA's members and supporters helped organize a panel discussion on the issues of human trafficking and modern day slavery delivered by the board members of Urban Light.
 - **Panel discussion on "The Triple Glass Ceiling"** (March 25, 2019): the Nomura AEJ LGBT+ Network, in partnership with Women In Nomura (WIN)
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and HKGALA, held a panel discussion on “**The Triple Glass Ceiling**”, focusing on the obvious and less obvious glass ceilings which women continue to face.

- **HKGALA Professional Development Skills Workshop: First Impression, Impact and Your Executive Presence** (March 1, 2019): HKGALA, in partnership with **FELIZ Consulting** and **Legal Beagle**, hosted a professional development skills workshop led by communications skills trainer, Monica Hall. This is the first in a planned series of professional development skills workshops available for HKGALA members.
 - **March with Us: 2018 Hong Kong Pride Parade** (November 17, 2018): In partnership with Baker & McKenzie, HKGALA marched in Hong Kong's 10th annual Pride Parade. It was HKGALA's fifth consecutive year participating.
 - **Asia Pro Bono Conference Reception co-hosted by HKGALA and DLA Piper** (October 25, 2018): Hosted by DLA Piper in conjunction with the Asia Pro Bono Conference in Hong Kong, HKGALA participated in a reception discussing the recent legal victories for LGBT+ rights in the Asia region suggesting ways in which interested lawyers and pro bono volunteers can offer support and become engaged.
 - **HKGALA Anniversary Party** (October 11, 2018): HKGALA held its fifth anniversary celebration at Employees Only sponsored by the law firms Latham & Watkins and Mayer Brown. The Transgender Resource Centre was the charitable beneficiary of funds raised in connection with this event.
 - **HKGALA Co-Chairs & Members Featured in 2018 FT OUTstanding LGBT+ & Ally Business Leaders Lists** (October 25, 2018): HKGALA was proud to announce that six members, including **Marc Rubinstein, Justin D' Agostino, Georgia Dawson, Su-Ling Voon, Wally Suphap and Henry Li** were featured on the Financial Times' 2018 OUTstanding LGBT+ and Ally Business Leader Lists.
 - **WILHK's Anniversary and a celebration of inclusion and diversity with HKGALA** (September 18, 2019): HKGALA collaborated with WILHK on their anniversary event at Madame Fu's in Tai Kwun, which was sponsored by the law firm Akin Gump.
 - **Maples Insights Investments Funds Forum** (September 7, 2018): HKGALA co-founder Marc Rubinstein was a panelist on the panel “Diversity; Key for Success for Financial Services” at Maples' annual conference for the funds industry in Hong Kong.
 - **HKGALA sponsorship of the Corporate Citizenship Law Firm Award at the ALB Hong Kong Law Awards** (September 3, 2018): HKGALA was delighted to be an official supporting organization of **The Asia Legal Business Hong Kong Law Awards** and was proud to present the **HKGALA Award for Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year**.
 - **Panel on QT Case and LGBT+ Rights hosted by HKGALA/Interbank/Davis**
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Polk (June 28, 2018): Davis Polk, with collaboration between HKGALA and the LGBT+ Interbank Forum, held a panel discussion on the topic of the landmark *QT v Department of Immigration* case and its implications for LGBT+ rights in Hong Kong.

- **Harneys and HKGALA Caribbean Coming Out Party** (June 21, 2018): HKGALA and Harneys held a “Caribbean Coming Out Party” in celebration of Pride Month and Harneys ‘coming out’ as the first offshore law firm member of HKGALA.
- **LGBT+ & Allies Network event - Inclusion at the Workplace** (March 15, 2018): HKGALA co-founder Wally Suphap was a panelist at the discussion organized by the LGBT+ & Allies Network of Baker McKenzie. The panel discussed "Inclusion at the Workplace" and the impact of Gay Games 2022.
- **Private Screening of "Call Me By Your Name"** (March 1, 2018): Skadden and HKGALA co-hosted a private screening of the movie "Call Me By Your Name".
- **Social Drinks** (February 13, 2018): HKGALA held a drinks social networking event with fellow members and supporters at Happy Paradise.

Upcoming Events

- **The Skadden HK Pride Affinity Network Debate** (4 June 2019): Skadden is hosting a debate which reflects on Taiwan's experience in its pursuit to legalise same-sex marriage. Debate topic: "Is a referendum the best legal means to protect the rights of people who identify as LGBTQ+ in Asia?"
- **Estate Planning for Same Sex Couples – What you need to know in Hong Kong** (13 June 2019): Hogan Lovell’s will host a seminar to discuss the options available for estate planning and family protection for same sex couples in Hong Kong.
- **Supporting Firms’ Roundtable** (June 17, 2019): to be hosted by Skadden Arps.
- **Goldman Sachs Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Network – 10th Annual Intercompany LGBT Quiz Night** (25 June 2019): HKGALA’s members and supporters are invited to join this annual event which is coming to its 10th anniversary.
- **Presentation Skills Workshop Series** (July 2019): HKGALA and Morrison & Foerster will host a professional development skills workshop on developing and cultivating one’s authentic professional voice.

Ideas, Suggestions and Feedback

As always, we welcome your ideas, suggestions and feedback. Please take a moment to share with us an idea for a future event or any suggestions on how we can continue to enhance and grow the network. You can contact us at info@hkgala.com or reach out directly to any of our Executive Committee

members.

We wish you a wonderful year, and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely yours,

HKGALA Executive Committee

Wally, Marc, Mike, Jenny, Su-Ming and Ilan.

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