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Cedric Chao

Trial Partner; Co-Head, International Arbitration Practice
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Cedric Chao is a trial partner and co-head of the international arbitration practice of DLA Piper, resident in the San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices. Mr. Chao, a former federal prosecutor, has a unique skill set, having first-chaired numerous high stakes disputes in both US courtrooms and international arbitration forums, including five business disputes where the amount in controversy exceeded \$1 billion, and multiple others where the amount in controversy was in the hundreds of millions of dollars. His clients span many industries and countries.

Mr. Chao has appeared in U.S. District Courts in a number of federal judicial districts and in the trial courts throughout California. He has argued seventeen times before appellate courts, including once before the U.S. Supreme Court and once before a Ninth Circuit *en banc* panel. Mr. Chao has led teams in international arbitration proceedings around the world, and has sat as an ICC and SIAC arbitrator.

Mr. Chao is a U.S. member of the ICC Arbitration Commission, and served as a director of the American Arbitration Association. He is one of 31 Advisors to the American Law Institute project to draft the Restatement of the U.S. Law of International Commercial Arbitration.

Mr. Chao is a former chair of the U.S. Magistrate Judge Screening Committee of the Northern District of California and of the California State Bar Litigation Section. He is a former member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary (representing the Ninth Circuit).

Mr. Chao is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* (for arbitration, mediation, and business litigation), *Euromoney's Guide to the World's Leading Litigation Lawyers*, *Euromoney's Guide to the World's Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration*, *Global Arbitration Review's The International Who's Who of Commercial Arbitration*, and *San Francisco Magazine's Northern California Super Lawyers* (for business litigation).

He is an elected Member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society. He is named a leading lawyer by *Chambers USA* and *Chambers Global*, who describe him as "a rigorous, creative, problem-solving thinker," noting that "market commentators praise [him]

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for his broad capabilities as a passionate advocate." *Chambers' 2016* commentary describes him as "an incredibly energetic and intelligent person [who] is praised for his effective team leadership skills."

Mr. Chao graduated from Stanford University in economics (with Distinction and Departmental Honors) and Harvard Law School. Following graduation, he clerked for U.S. District Judge William H. Orrick, Northern District of California.

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