



DENTONS



大成 DENTONS

## HISTORIC COMBINATION CREATES LEADING, LARGEST LAW FIRM IN THE WORLD

*With 6,500 lawyers and professionals in 120 locations, new firm answers clients' call for broader experience, deeper business knowledge and greater cultural insight around the world*

At a signing ceremony today, in an historic first, 大成 (pronounced "da CHUNG"), a leading law firm in China, and Dentons, a top 10 global law firm, announced a combination that will be unique in the marketplace. The result will be the only firm to offer seamless service across Africa; Asia Pacific; Canada; Central Asia; Europe; the Middle East; Russia, CIS and the Caucasus; the United Kingdom (UK); the United States (US); and all 34 of China's regional administrative divisions.

### Challenging the status quo through an historic combination.

The new firm will have more than 6,500 lawyers and professionals in 120 locations in more than 50 countries. It is the first combination of a leading Chinese firm and a top 10 global firm. The new firm will provide clients with more advantages, including:

- **A polycentric approach.** With no one global headquarters and no dominant national culture, the firm will proudly offer clients talent from diverse backgrounds and countries, with deep experience across many geographies and every tradition of law. The new firm offers the local cultural understanding required to get a deal done or dispute resolved in communities around the world.
- **Broader and deeper offerings around the globe.** The combination of a polycentric, global firm with a leading Chinese firm will offer clients seamless service, global presence and local knowledge.
- **Reinvented client service.** The new firm will reinvent client service, harnessing new technologies to enhance client support and deliver higher quality services while prioritizing client confidentiality and data security.

### Brand

The new firm brand unites the names of both firms in an elegant logo, which symbolizes a combination of Eastern and Western cultures.

In spoken references, the new firm would be called "北京大成律师事务所" in Chinese, and "Dentons" in other languages. Further information about the new firm's naming convention may be found here [www.dentonscombination.com](http://www.dentonscombination.com).

### Leadership and structure

The new firm will be led by:

- **Peng Xuefeng**, the present Director and Founding Partner of 大成, and Chairman of the standing committee of 大成, will be the Chairman of the Global Board and the Chairman of the Global Advisory Committee of the new firm.
- **Joe Andrew**, currently the Global Chairman of Dentons, will be the Global Chairman of the new firm.
- **Elliott Portnoy**, currently the Global Chief Executive Officer of Dentons, will be the Global Chief Executive Officer of the new firm.

"This combination between the premier law firms of China and the West is truly the first of its kind. Our new firm will serve as a highly integrated platform for efficient legal services, and build bridges that facilitate cooperation and exchange for Chinese and Western clients alike. We will help our clients navigate the most complex legal and business environments worldwide, providing unique professional legal services. Together, we are taking an unprecedented step forward in our profession--a ground-breaking milestone in the history of international law firms," Peng said.

Andrew commented, "With more lawyers in more places where our clients do business, this combination is not about being the largest law firm in the world it is about understanding what our clients need and delivering it. As the only big 10 firm not headquartered in the US or UK, our polycentric approach reflects how the global economy has fundamentally changed and the legal profession must change with it." Andrew will be the Global Chairman of the new firm.

"With the largest and fastest growing economy in the world, the attraction of China to our clients is strong. All of our competitors are looking East," said Portnoy. "By uniting East and West in one firm—not merely through a few offices in large cities, but with a deep presence across China—we can provide Chinese businesses with global ambitions and international clients with interests inside China a reach and depth that simply can't be found elsewhere." Portnoy will be the Global Chief Executive Officer of the new firm.

The new firm will have five regions—Asia, Canada, Europe, the UK and the Middle East (UKMEA), and the US—each led by a regional chief executive officer. A 19-member Global Board—comprised of 14 members from Dentons, and five from 大成—will include representation from each region, and a Global Advisory Committee will be comprised of all members of each region's board. The new firm would be structured as a Verein, a structure common among the world's top global law firms.

### **About 大成**

Founded in 1992, 大成 is one of the first and largest law firms in China. 大成 is home to more than 4,000 licensed attorneys and professionals worldwide. Headquartered in Beijing, 大成 has more than 51 branches and offices, enabling the firm to offer seamlessly integrated legal services to its clients on a global basis.

大成 and its lawyers have earned numerous outstanding honors and awards through years, including being named "Outstanding National Law Firm" by the All China Lawyers Association for several consecutive years, holding the top spot on *Asian Legal Business'* "ALB 50: Asia's Largest Law Firms" and being named number one on *The Asia Lawyer's* 2015 "The Asia 50" and "The China 20" list.

### **About Dentons**

Dentons is a global law firm driven to provide clients a competitive edge in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. A top 20 firm on the Acritas 2014 Global Elite Brand Index, Dentons is committed to challenging the status quo in delivering consistent and uncompromising quality in new and inventive ways. With a legacy of legal experience that dates back to 1742, Dentons was formed by the combination of international law firm Salans LLP, Canadian law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP (FMC) and international law firm SNR Denton. Dentons' clients now benefit from approximately 2,600 lawyers and

professionals in more than 75 locations spanning 50-plus countries across Africa, Asia Pacific, Canada, Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, CIS and the Caucasus, the UK, and the US. The firm serves the local, regional and global needs of a broad spectrum of clients, including private and public corporations; governments and government agencies; small businesses and startups; entrepreneurs; and individuals.

#### Legal Notice

This information relates to a proposed combination of Dentons and 大成, and their members and affiliated undertakings.

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