S&L Partners
에스앤엘파트너스



Thae Khwarg

Senior Foreign Attorney

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Summary

Thae Khwarg is a Senior Foreign Attorney at S&L Partners and an International Arbitrator with KCAB International. While he practices general corporate law his expertise lies in governance issues. He combines legal knowledge and many years of investment experience. Thae started his legal practice at Coudert Brothers in New York. For five years he advised multinational companies on their syndicated loans, joint ventures as well as mergers and acquisitions. After that he headed up the research department of Baring Securities and thereby contributed to the development of the Korean capital market. He then set up an asset management company called Asset Korea and grew its assets under management to Won 11 trillion over a 25-year period. Asset Korea later became Baring Asset Management Korea.

Thae engaged in several outside activities. For four years he served as a member of the Steering Committee at Korea Investment Corporation (Korea's sovereign wealth fund). As the head of the Investment Sub-Committee he experienced the ups and downs of alternative asset investing. While serving as an outside director of Korea Telecom and Chair of its Sub-Committee on Fair Trade he gained first-hand experience in governance practices of a large corporation. He also served on the National Pension Service Long-Term Investment Policy Committee. Thae also served as an audit committee member of Hanmi Science. Thae currently serves as an outside director of KORAMCO.

Thae, along with the S&L litigation team and other environmental lawyers, worked on Asia's first landmark climate case against the government. On 29 August 2024 Korea's Constitutional Court ruled that the current laws are unconstitutional as they lack legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2031-2049. This was held to be an infringement on the rights of future generations. The Court gave the National Assembly and the government until 28 February 2026 to amend the laws.

Practice Areas

Corporate Governance, Finance, Corporate

Education

2021- Present	Korea National Open University, Business Administration, 3rd year
2021	Korea National Open University, College of Law, LL.B
1984	Harvard Law School, J.D.
1980	Columbia College, B.A. in History (magna cum laude)
1976	Upper Merion High School in Pennsylvania

Professional Career

2025- Present	Outside Director, KORAMCO REITs Mgt. & Trust Co., Ltd.
2022- 2025	Outside Director and Audit Committee, Hanmi Science Co., Ltd.
2021- Present	Member, Investment Committee, Overseas Acquisition Financing Fund and Global Infra Loan Fund, PineStreet Asset Management Co., Ltd.
2020- Present	Member, Panel of International Arbitrators, KCAB International
2019 - Present	Member, Fund management Committee and Fund Investment Committee, The Asan Nanum Foundation
2018- Present	Member, Board of Advisors, Re-Imagining Cities Foundation
2018- Present	Senior Foreign Attorney, S&L Partners
2005 - 2022	Outside Director, MetLife Korea Foundation
1996 - 2016	CEO of Baring Asset Management Korea (prior to 2013, CEO of SEI Asset Korea Co., Ltd., which was owned by SEI Investments, MetLife and International Finance Corporation): assets under management grew from Won 300 billion to Won 11 trillion
2013 - 2016	Director, Baring Asset Management (Asia) Limited
2008 - 2016	Director, Korea Financial Investors Protection Foundation
2008 - 2012	Member of Steering Committee and Chair of Investment Sub-Committee of Korean Investment Corporation
2005	Completed a Program for Directors at the Korea Directors Institute
2005 - 2008	Outside Director and Chair of Sub-Committee on Fair Trade, Korea Telecom
2001 - 2002	Member, Long-Term Investment Policy Committee of National Pension Service
1992 - 1996	Senior Fund Manager and Managing Director, Asset Korea: provided research and investment advice on Korean stocks, bonds and real estate as well as Chinese stocks
1988 - 1991	Head of Research and Deputy Branch Manager, Baring Securities Seoul Branch
1984 - 1988	Associate, Coudert Brothers (New York and Hong Kong): advised on international transactions, anti-trust, delisting, JV establishment, bankruptcy and private equity transactions

Selected Speaking Engagements and Publications

Panel Member, EoM-Hanyang Next Impact Forum 'Economics of Mutuality: A New Paradigm for Mutual Value Creation of Business and Investing' (April 2024)

Panel Member, Citizens Coalition for Social Justice- World Justice Project 'Rule of Law in Korea: Current Status and Challenges' (October 2023)

Panel Member, Asia-Oceania Asset Management Conference (March 2014)
Panel Member, Citibank 'Savings to Investment' Forum (March 2005)
Contributed Article: 'China's SOC Investments' and other contributed articles (total of nine) in Maeil Economic Daily (September 2014 to January 2015)
Co-Author: Guide to Global Stock Markets (chapter on the Korean market), Probus Professional Publishing, 1991

Awards/Professional Accolades

From 1997 to 2018 Thae and/or his company received 45 awards. Key awards were:

- Grand Award for Korea Funds, KG Zero-In (January 2018)
- Best Korean Fixed Income Manager, Asian Investor (June 2016)

Membership

New York Bar Association (admitted in June 1985)

Languages

Korean, English

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