



# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## Weatherhead East Asian Institute



### Frederick Burke

#### Title and Affiliations

**Senior Advisor**, Baker & McKenzie Vietnam

Vietnam Business Forum (“VBF”) **Management Board Member** appointed by the American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (“Am Cham”).

**Vice Chairman** of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Business Association in Vietnam

Former Chair of Baker McKenzie’s International Trade & WTO Practice Group, Founder and later

**Managing Partner** of its offices in Vietnam, Member of the Firm’s Policy Committee and other Firm management positions.

#### Speaker Biography

Fred is a graduate of the Columbia School of Public and International Affairs (MIA, 1986) and the Columbia Law School (JD, 1987). He participated in the International Fellows program, co-founded the “Journal of Chinese Law” (later the “Journal of Asian Law”) and completed the Parker Program of International and Foreign Law in 1987.

After graduating and passing the Bar in New York (and later D.C.) he joined Baker McKenzie in New York as an associate. He moved to the Firm’s nascent Shanghai office in 1988 and three years later to Hong Kong and then Vietnam, where he was the Firm’s first Chief Representative in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (aka “Saigon”) from 1993, just before the lifting of the US Trade Embargo on Vietnam. He has lived in HCMC ever since, married to Loan Tran, a Saigon native, raising two children and managing the Baker McKenzie through its growth phase and its integration with the global firm’s network. In his spare time, he fronted rock bands that included the “Nei Bu Revue” in Shanghai and “the Durian Durian Band” in HCMC.

Fred’s work at Bakers, over the nearly 30 years he was based in Vietnam, included a broad range of investment and trade matters, including work on Vietnam’s accession to a string of free trade agreements and the WTO Agreements that enabled the country’s amazing success in alleviating poverty and improving peoples’ livelihoods. At the same time, he helped build some of Vietnam’s leading business associations, including Am Cham, the Hong Kong Business Association in Vietnam, and the Vietnam Business Forum (“VBF”), a federation of all of the business associations Vietnam. Finally, as managing partner for most of those thirty years, he worked to build up the offices and the great team of mostly Vietnamese lawyers who work there today.

Fred did his undergraduate work in Comparative Literature at Stanford, where he got his B.A. in 1981. He moved to Beijing that year to teach English at the Iron & Steel Institute with the “Volunteers in Asia” organization. Columbia Law School sponsored him to participate in Professor Jack Greenberg’s (of *Brown vs. Board of Education*) Human Rights Internship in Davos City, Mindanao, shortly before his fall of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.