

A hand is shown holding a glowing, spherical globe. The globe is composed of a network of interconnected nodes and lines, with a faint world map visible in the background. The scene is set against a dark, warm-toned background with bokeh light effects.

Chapter 5 Publicity Programmes

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Publicity Programmes

The Department is committed to ensure that no one who qualifies for legal aid is denied access to justice because of lack of means. Every year the Department organises or participates in various activities to enhance the public's awareness and knowledge of the legal aid services provided by the Department.

Promotional Activities

2018 Law Week

As in the past, the Department sponsored and participated in the organization of the annual territory-wide event Law Week 2018, which was launched by The Law Society of Hong Kong at Kowloonbay International Trade and Exhibition Centre on 17 November 2018. The Opening Ceremony was attended by the Honourable Chief Justice, Mr Justice Geoffrey Ma; the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan; the Legislative Council Member, the Honourable Mr Dennis Kwok; the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Ms Melissa Pang; and the Chairman of Legal Aid Services Council, Dr Eric Li and the Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong.



The Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong (third right), officiated at the opening ceremony of Law Week 2018 and Teen Talk 2018 on 17 November 2018. Also officiating at the opening ceremony were the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, the Hon Mr Justice Geoffrey Ma (sixth right); the Secretary for Transport and Housing, Mr Frank Chan (fourth right); the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Ms Melissa Pang (fifth right); the Legislative Council Member, Mr Dennis Kwok (fourth left) and the Chairman of Legal Aid Services Council, Dr Eric Li (third left).

In October 2018, the Department set up a booth in a "Free Legal Advice Programme" at the open area of Hopewell Centre in Wan Chai organised by the Law Society. 16 professional officers participated and answered enquires on legal aid services from the public.

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Access to Justice InnoTech Law Hackathon

The Department participated in the first Access to Justice InnoTech Law Hackathon organized by The Law Society of Hong Kong in 2018. The Hackathon was a two-day competition for professionals, students and interested members to design and develop technology-enabled solutions to address issues in community justice and legal services. Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong, officiated at the opening ceremony on 7 April 2018 and six professional officers also participated as mentors and panel judge in the Hackathon activities held on 7 and 8 April 2018 in Cyberport.

2018 Asia Pro Bono Conference

In October 2018, the Department participated in the 2018 Asia Pro Bono Conference held in Hong Kong and delivered a talk on “Who needs pro bono” at one of the keynote sessions. The Department lent its support in promoting the availability of legal services to the general public in Asia and beyond.

Promotion of Legal Aid Services through the media

In July 2018, Legal Aid Counsel (Legal and Management Support), Miss Anna Tsang (second left), and Senior Law Clerk II (Legal and Management Support), Ms Angie Chan (third left) gave a radio interview to RTHK5's 「奮發時刻DSE」 programme on legal aid service in Hong Kong and the work of Legal Aid Counsel and Law Clerk. The programme was co-organised by RTHK and Hok Yau Club. The feedback was very positive.



Promotion of Legal Aid Services to Legal Practitioners

The Department places great importance on working in partnership with the legal profession to deliver quality legal aid services to the public. To enhance the legal profession's understanding and knowledge of our services, the Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel (Legal and Management Support), Mrs Christina Hadiwibawa, delivered a CPD course on the update on Legal Aid Schemes in June 2018. The course was attended by 135 legal practitioners.

Promotion of Legal Aid Services to External Bodies/Organizations

In 2018, we met with a number of counterpart organisations from overseas and the Mainland to exchange views on issues of common interest in legal aid work and spoke on the latest development of legal aid in Hong Kong.

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In mid January 2018, Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong and two Deputy Directors of Legal Aid Department, Ms Juliana Chan (Litigation) and Ms YW Mo (Application and Processing) met with Ms Holly Kwan, Consul (Consulate General of Canada), Mr Joshua Strehle, Consular & Passports Manager (Australian Consulate-General), Ms Jannie Kam, British Pro-Consul (British Consulate-General) and Mr James J. Jay Junior, Consul (U.S. Consulate General) to exchange views on the provision and latest development of legal aid services in Hong Kong.



In late January 2018, Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong, together with Deputy Director of Legal Aid (Administration), Mr Chris Chong, Deputy Director of Legal Aid (Litigation), Ms Juliana Chan, and Acting Deputy Director of Legal Aid (Application and Processing), Ms Y W Mo met with Dr Wang Zhen Min, Director-General of Department of Law of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in HKSAR to exchange views on the provision of legal aid services in Hong Kong.



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In March 2018, Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong and Deputy Director of Legal Aid (Administration), Mr Chris Chong met with Mr Lu Weidong, Director of Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice to introduce the legal aid services in Hong Kong.



In addition, the Department also received the following groups/delegations in 2018:

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| Mainland - Officials | Mainland officials from Guizhou Province |
| | A delegation of Mainland lawyers and officials from Shanghai |
| | Mainland officials under the Training Scheme in Common Law |
| | Two groups of Mainland Senior Chinese Judges |
| | Mainland officials from the Zhejiang Provincial Department of Justice |
| Mainland - Academics | Two groups of law students and/or professors from the China University of Political Science and Law |
| | A group of law students and teachers from the Zhejiang University of Technology |
| | A group of law students and teachers from the South China University of Technology |
| | Law students from the Peking University and the Renmin University of China |
| Local – Academics | Two groups of secondary school students from different local schools |
| | A group of non-Chinese speaking secondary school students |
| | Law students from the University of Hong Kong |
| Overseas - Officials | Mr Lee Ju-young, the Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of the Liberty Party Korea, South Korea |

Please visit <http://www.lad.gov.hk/eng/wnew/event.html> for the details and photos of the events.

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Reaching out to the Community

In mid January 2018, Acting Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Kowloon Branch Office), Ms Joyce Leung, hosted a talk for over 30 social workers and frontline staff of Po Leung Kuk Tsui Lam Centre and introduced the work and services of the Legal Aid Department relating to family issues including divorce, maintenance, child custody and guardianship of minor.

In late January 2018, Acting Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Application and Processing), Mr Ivan Yim, Legal Aid Counsel (Application and Processing), Mr Jet Luk, and Senior Law Clerk I (Application and Processing), Mr John Chu, hosted a talk for over 130 participants and introduced legal aid services relating to employees' compensation and personal injuries at work. The talk was organised by the Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions.

In March 2018, Legal Aid Counsel (Application and Processing), Ms Katrina Ng, and Acting Senior Law Clerk I (Kowloon Branch Office), Mr Philip Leung, delivered a talk to 120 social workers and frontline staff from the Social Welfare Department and other non-governmental organisations on the work and services of the Department relating to family issues including divorce, maintenance and notes on referring recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance to apply for legal aid.

In April 2018, Acting Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Kowloon Branch Office), Miss Eliza Ching, and Senior Law Clerk I (Application and Processing), Mr Ivan Lee, hosted a talk for 40 participants and introduced legal aid services relating to employees' compensation and personal injuries at work. The talk was organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions.

In June 2018, Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Civil Litigation 2), Ms Janet Fung, and Legal Aid Counsel (Application and Processing), Ms Katrina Ng, hosted a talk for about 120 social workers and frontline staff from the Social Welfare Department, Hospital Authority and non-governmental organisations and introduced the Department's work and legal aid services relating to family issues including divorce, maintenance, child custody and guardianship of minor.

In August 2018, Acting Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Kowloon Branch Office), Ms Rita Chin, and Senior Law Clerk I (Kowloon Branch Office), Mr Ivan Lee, hosted a talk for about 20 participants and introduced legal aid services relating to employees' compensation and personal injuries at work. The talk was organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions.

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In December 2018, Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Civil Litigation 2), Ms Ada Chau, hosted a talk for about 100 social workers and frontline staff from the Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations and introduced the Department's work and legal aid services relating to family issues including divorce, maintenance, child custody and guardianship of minor.

The Department delivered talks to educational institutions and arranged special briefings for students from youth programmes including non-Chinese speaking students with a view to strengthening career and life planning education for youths. Three special briefings each comprised a court hearing were arranged for the CLAP for Youth @JC Programme in March and April 2018 and the Caritas Youth & Community Service's Mentorship Alliance of "MDPP+" in June 2018 respectively. In addition, the Department arranged two career talks for University students to introduce the operation of the Department and the daily work of Legal Aid Counsel and Law Clerks.

Furthermore, the Department provides hands-on experience for students who joined the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes and Sunnyway Programme. The participants under the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes joined the Department for about two weeks to two months and learned about legal aid work. On the other hand, the Sunnyway Programme enhanced the employment of persons with disabilities through proactive training provided by the Department over a 3-month period. In 2018, the Department recruited 6 summer interns and 9 winter interns under the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes and 2 trainees under the Sunnyway Programme.

Updating of Departmental Leaflets

The Department published a new issue of LAD News to introduce the Department's new initiatives and services. The newsletter was distributed to the stakeholders and visiting guests. The Department also published and regularly updated a series of leaflets including the provision of QR codes for examples of means test calculation in the "How Your Financial Resources and Contribution are Calculated" leaflet, whereby the QR codes provide an easy and environmental friendly access to the latest information on financial eligibility for legal aid.

Other publications such as the Financial Information Sheet, which contained comprehensive information on financial eligibility, deductible personal allowances, contributions payable by an aided person towards the costs of litigation and the Director's First Charge were also revised to reflect changes implemented in 2018.

A list of publications of the Department is at [Appendix 5](#).

Further Measures to Combat Improper Touting Activities

As a measure to further combat improper touting activities of claims recovery agents among injured workers and accident victims, the Department arranged the TV API on anti-touting activities produced by the Department of Justice to be broadcast in three waiting areas of the Department from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019, including Information & Application Services (IASU) of Application & Processing Division and Crime Section of Litigation Division on 25/F of Queensway Government Offices; and IASU of Kowloon Branch Office. The Department also displayed the poster on anti-touting activities in various offices and arranged the poster to be displayed at Accident & Emergency Departments of 18 public hospitals, District Social Welfare Offices of Social Welfare Department, offices of Labour Department's Employees' Compensation Division, Home Affairs Enquiry Centres, community centres and community halls.

Website

The Department regularly updates the contents of its website to provide comprehensive and timely information to the public and legal aid practitioners. In 2018, the Department continued enhancing the homepage to meet with the latest requirements of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.