

Chapter 5

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

50th Anniversary Publicity

The Department will celebrate its golden jubilee in the year of 2020. We are planning to organise a series of publicity activities to publicise legal aid services and share with members of the public our development over the past 50 years. In 2019, the Department engaged RTHK to produce a TV documentary chronicling the changes and development, collaborated with the Information Services Department and an agency to produce a TV Announcement in the Public Interest on legal aid services. The Department also began to work on a commemorative publication to capture various highlights of the Department including legally aided cases which had far-reaching impact on the legal system and society of Hong Kong. In addition to the launch of the above initiatives next year, the Department will also organise a roving exhibition in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2019



In December 2019, the Legal Aid Department was awarded the Bronze Prize of the Departmental Service Enhance Award (Small Department Category) for the Department's "Enhancement of Legal Aid Services through Innovative Use of Information Technology" under the Civil Service Outstanding Service Award Scheme 2019. Assistant Director of Legal Aid / Policy and Development, Ms Doris Lui

(second left), Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Legal and Management Support, Ms Christina Hadiwibawa (third left), and Acting Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Application and Processing, Mr Patrick Wong (first left), received the award on behalf of the Department at the prize presentation ceremony. The biennial Civil Service Outstanding Award Scheme was organised by the Civil Service Bureau.

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, Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Legal and Management Support, Ms Christina Hadiwibawa, gave a presentation on "Update on enforcement of maintenance order by way of judgment summons in Hong Kong" at the Law Lectures for Practitioners organised by the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong.

Promotion of Legal Aid Services to External Bodies/Organizations

In 2019, 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.

In late January 2019, Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong (right), met with Mr Liu Daqun (left), Judge of International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, United Nations and exchanged views on legal aid services in Hong Kong.



In late March 2019, Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong (fifth from left) together with two deputy directors received a 7-member delegation led by Mr Xiong Xuanguo (sixth from left), Vice Minister, Ministry of Justice, and exchanged views on the legal aid system in Hong Kong.



In addition, the Department also received the following groups/delegations in 2019:

Mainland - Officials	A group of Mainland officials and representatives from various organisations from Guangdong Province
	A delegation of Mainland Senior Chinese Judges
	A group of Mainland officials from Shenzhen
Mainland - Academics	A group of law students from the Peking University
Local – Academics	Four groups of secondary school students from different local schools
	A group of non-Chinese speaking secondary school students
Overseas - Officials	Mr Robert M. Carlson, the President of the American Bar Association, USA
	Dr Huang Jiefang, Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Bureau of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, Canada

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

Reaching out to the Community

In January 2019, Acting Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation 2, Miss Doreen Chan, hosted a talk for over 20 social workers and frontline staff of Po Leung Kuk Tsui Lam Centre and introduced the work and services of the Department relating to family issues such as divorce, maintenance, child custody and guardianship of minor.

In February 2019, Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing, Ms Maze Chak, and Senior Law Clerk I / Application & Processing, Mr John Chu, attended a talk organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions and introduced legal aid services relating to employees' compensation and personal injuries at work.

In early June 2019, Acting Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Kowloon Branch Office, Ms Joyce Leung, and Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation (2), Ms Wendy Bien, hosted a talk for the social workers and frontline staff of Mother's Choice and introduced the Department's work and legal aid services relating to family matters including divorce, child custody and guardianship of minor.

In mid June 2019, Acting Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation 2, Miss Doreen Chan, and Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing, Ms Carol Ling, gave a talk on legal aid services for members of CBMP Student Association. The talk was organised by the Women's Commission and LiPACE, The Open University of Hong Kong.

In late June 2019, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation (2), Ms Janet Fung, and Acting Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Application and Processing, Ms Katrina Ng, hosted a talk for 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.

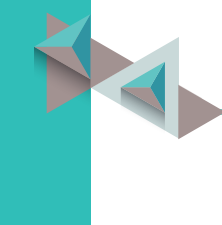
In September 2019, Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing, Mr James Yeung, and Senior Law Clerk I / Kowloon Branch Office, Mr Philip Leung, hosted a talk for members of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions and introduced legal aid services relating to employees' compensation and personal injuries at work.

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. Five special briefings each comprised a court hearing were arranged for the School Promotion Programme in February, March, July and December 2019 and the Caritas Youth & Community Service's programme "Providing Life Planning Education Activities for non-Chinese speaking Students in Secondary Schools" in May 2019 respectively.

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 2019, the Department recruited 11 summer interns and 5 winter interns under the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes and 1 trainee under the Sunnyway Programme.

Updating of Departmental Leaflets

The Department published and regularly updated a series of leaflets, which included updating "Guide to Legal Aid Services in Hong Kong" booklet and "How to Apply – Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme (SLAS)" leaflet to include the expansion of SLAS's scope effective in 2020. An updated version of "How to Apply – Legal Services" leaflet was also published reflecting changes on Legal Advice Scheme for Unrepresented Litigants on Civil Procedure and services provided by the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Judiciary.



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 2019.

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

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 new version of TV API "Beware of the touting activities of recovery agents" produced by the Department of Justice to be broadcast in three waiting areas of the Department from 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020, 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 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 2019, the Department continued enhancing the homepage to meet with the latest requirements of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

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