

Chapter 5

Publicity Programmes



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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

In 2020, the Department was fully engaged to prepare for the celebration of its golden jubilee. Plans had been made 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. Other than engaging RTHK to produce a series of TV documentary chronicling the changes and development 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. To showcase the Department's history and works in the past and present, roving exhibitions will be held at different regions of Hong Kong in 2021.

Collaborating with the Information Services Department and an agency, the Legal Aid Department produced a Television Announcement in the Public Interest (TV API) on legal aid services and its corresponding radio APIs. The APIs 'All are equal before the law' were broadcast at local TV and radio channels throughout 2020. In addition, the TV API was also uploaded to the websites of the Department and the Information Services Department for viewing by the members of the public.

Law Week 2020

In December 2020, the Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong officiated at the Joint Opening Ceremony of Teen Talk 10th Anniversary and Law Week 2020 through an online platform. Also officiating at the opening ceremony were the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li; the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung; the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC; the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Ms Melissa Pang, and the Chairman of Legal Aid Services Council, Dr William Leung Wing-cheung.

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. In November 2020, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Kowloon Branch Office, Miss Anna Tsang, participated in the production of a short legal tips video organised by the Law Society. In the video, she briefly introduced legal aid services and works of the Department.

Promotion of Legal Aid Services to External Bodies/Organizations

We regularly met with our 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.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, all such visits were suspended in 2020.

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 October and November 2020, a total of 12 Professional Officers of the Department participated in the “Free Legal Advice Programme” at the Covered Piazza of Times Square in Causeway Bay organised by the Law Society of Hong Kong. Professional Officers manned the Department’s booth and answered public’s enquiries on issues relating to legal aid services.

In October 2020, Legal Aid Counsel / Application and Processing, Mr Jet Luk and Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation (2), Miss Kanas Wong, hosted a talk for 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.

In early July 2020, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing, Miss Anna Tsang, and Acting Senior Law Clerk I / Kowloon Branch Office, Mr Gary Cheng, hosted a talk for the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions and introduced legal aid services relating to employees’ compensation and personal injuries at work.



In mid-January 2020, Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation 2, Miss Doreen Chan, hosted a talk for about 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.

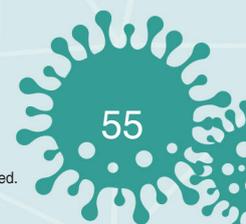
Furthermore, the Department provides hands-on experience for students who joined the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes. The participants under the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes joined the Department for about two weeks to two months and learned about legal aid work. On the other hand, the Department participated in the programmes organised by the Civil Service Bureau to offer internship placements for students with disabilities and non-ethnic Chinese students for about two months. In 2020, the Department recruited 12 summer interns and 7 winter interns under the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes, 1 intern with disability and 2 non-ethnic Chinese interns.

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. To tie in with the production of TV and Radio APIs ‘All are equal before the law’, posters were also produced for distribution to the relevant departments and NGOs to promote legal aid services in 2020.

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 2020.

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 2020, the Department continued enhancing the homepage to meet with the latest requirements of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

[Back to top](#)